St Sebastian's Primary School Newsletter

Yearly Newsletter

PANDA CLASS 2025/26

We hope that you had a wonderful summer and have been excited to start school. We are looking forward to getting to know all of our new children and families and have lots of exciting learning opportunities planned throughout the year. As always, we value the support that you give your children. We use Class Dojo to share children's learning in school, special achievements and any additional homework completed at home.



What's happening in Autumn Term?

This term, we will mostly be getting to know each other, making friends, learning all about school routines and what makes us special and unique! We will focus on ourselves, our families, our friends and our local environment. After half term, we will focus on traditional tales. We will read and retell our favourite stories and have fun and the celebrations; Bonfire night, Diwali, and Christmas. Across the whole term, we will also learn about changing seasons and weather. Keep an eye out for our phonics open morning this term!

What's happening in Spring Term?

For the first half term, our topic will be 'Amazing Animals' and the second half will be 'Ticket to Ride'. We have lots of exciting learning opportunities planned, including a trip to Tattershall Farm Park to further enhance our learning about animals. We will also be learning about the celebrations Chinese New Year, Easter and Eid and observing weather changes as we move into Spring. This is always a great opportunity to get outside and observe new life growing all around us! As part of our ticket to ride learning, we will learn about all kinds of transport including space travel!

What's happening in Summer Term?

We have two very exciting topics to cover this term. The first is 'Back to Nature' where will be learning all about plants and growth. Hopefully the weather will be kind to us this term so we can get outside exploring nature hands on. We will also get the opportunity to go strawberry picking this term which is aways great fun! After half term, our topic will be 'All at Sea', which will cover summer weather, seaside holidays and pirates. Both topics encompass all seven areas of learning: PSED. Physical Development, Communication, Literacy and Language, writing, maths, Expressive arts and design and knowledge and understanding of the world.

PE

Our PE day is Wednesday PE kits should remain in school and will be sent home at the half term for washing.

Please ensure that your child has a named water bottle in school.

Children will change into their PE kits at school to support their PSED learning, which includes learning to dress and undress. They will be supported with buttons, zips etc to begin with.

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.Rewards

We love stickers in Panda Class and these are used to encourage children to make good choices and follow the classroom rules. As well as earning stickers, we can earn values points for following our school rules or displaying our school values. On occasions when the whole class is brilliant, we can earn class credits—when we fill our ten frame we get to choose a whole class treat!

Reading

Children will soon start to bring home reading books. This is a very exciting time! Children will bring home two books each week. One of these will be a book to share together and the other will be a book that your child can read independently. The book your child can read independently will be the book that they have read in school that week, reading it again at home will help to improve their fluency and boost their confidence. As we begin to teach those first sounds, the first books sent home will be wordless. It is important to talk about the story using the pictures and to ask lots of open ended questions about what is happening as this supports the development of many early reading skills. We ask that children keep their books in their book bags and bring them into school each day. We also ask that you try to read with your child daily, we appreciate that this isn't always possible but the more often your child practices reading the more fluent and confident they will become. When you do hear your child read, please could you leave a brief comment in their reading diary.

Homework

The most important homework that you could do is to support your child with their phonics and listen to them read.

There will also be a simple bingo grid with some ideas for you to complete at home which will further support the learning that the children have been doing in school. You can choose which order to complete the tasks in and the children will have an opportunity to share this home learning with the class on a Friday afternoon.

Phonics/Spelling

We use the Little Wandle Letters and Sounds scheme to teach phonics. Parent information is available on the following link.. For parents | Letters and Sounds (littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk)

Children will each have a phonics home learning book that is updated weekly with newly learned sounds and any tricky word spellings.

Website

Link to class dojo

Our website contains a wealth of information that you may find helpful.

On your child's class page, you can find:

- Homework grids
- Knowledge organisers
- Photo updates
- Spellings

On our main website, you can find information about our:

- Policies and reports
- Term dates
- Newsletters
- School information
- School meals
- SEND

