

# Darling Class NEWSLETTER AUTUMN TERM 1 2025



Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope that you have all had a wonderful Summer. We are delighted to welcome both familiar faces and new ones and we are very much looking forward to spending time with your lovely children, getting to know them better and providing them with a very happy start to this academic year at Stanton.

## Topic – Me and My Family

As we welcome your child into Darling Class our priority is to help them to settle quickly and happily into Darling Class. We have chosen the topic 'Me and My Family' as it gives children the chance to explore all sorts of interesting facts about where they come from and understand what it means to be a part of a family. It also helps everyone to get to know each other, to look at how we are similar and different and to see that we are all special and unique. The topic lends itself to lots of creative and explorative play and opportunities for developing communication, language and literacy.

We often have activities, such as cooking and specific crafts, which offer a wonderful opportunity for volunteers to come into Darling Class to assist with. If you or another family member are interested in helping in this way, please speak to Mrs Breen or Mrs Hunter.

Autumn Term 2	
<b>PSED / PSHE</b>	As we all settle in Darling class we will be thinking about and generating class rules together to help us work and play co-operatively, thinking about our own and others feelings, what makes us good listeners and how we can be a good friend to others.
<b>Maths</b>	In Reception this term we will be focusing on the areas of matching, sorting, comparing and ordering, patterns, counting and time. We will be working practically, playing lots of games, working independently and in pairs and small groups and also learning how to record in our maths journals.  In Year One this term we will be exploring numbers to 10, number bonds, addition within 10, subtraction within 10, positions and numbers to 20.
<b>English</b>	The key texts we will be using this half term are 'Who's in my Family' by Robie Harris; Love Hair by Matthew Cherry; Super Milly and the Super School Day by Stephanie Clarkson; 'Can Cat and bird be Friends' by Coll Muir; The Cow who fell to Earth by Nadia Shareen and 'Five Minutes Peace' by Jill Murphy. These texts will provide inspiration for oracy, including descriptions, predictions, story retelling and written work, including labelling, questions and statements, thoughts and predictions.
<b>Phonics</b>	Reception – we will begin by learning to recognise, write and say the sounds a, i, m, s, t. We will start to build CVC words and to say the sounds and read CVC words and some high frequency words. Year 1 – we will learn the sounds and the different spellings for /ay/ and /ee/, as well as the same spelling, different sounds for /ea/. We will look at endings /le/ and /ed/.
<b>Science / Understanding the World</b>	This year the children will be introduced to an exciting new science scheme of work. We will learn and use symbols to help us identify scientific processes and the skills we are using. In Year 1 we will be exploring the unit of 'Animals including Humans'. We will be learning about the different animal groups and the characteristics of each, as well as labelling the human body and exploring the 5 senses. We will be building on our current knowledge and vocabulary. In Reception as we settle into school we will be exploring the topic of 'Ourselves' through stories and play. We will be labelling the body and thinking about our 5 senses and how we use these.
<b>Computing</b>	In Reception we will be exploring technology through our play, thinking about how it is used in everyday life and how it can support us in our learning. In Year 1 we will be focusing on digital writing through focusing on exploring a keyboard, adding and removing text, exploring the toolbar, making changes to text and explaining these changes.
<b>History / Understanding the World</b>	We will begin by looking at what history is and to use a timeline to order events in chronological order. The children will explore what a family tree is and create their own family tree. We will also find out about and discuss differences between childhood today and life in their grandparents' childhood. If possible, please could your child bring photos of their family (siblings, parents, grandparents), that you don't mind being cut up, to create a family tree. Children will be able to draw pictures if they don't have photos. We appreciate that families are different, including how they are made up. Please be assured that these matters will be addressed with sensitivity.
<b>Physical Development / PE</b>	Reception PE units will be 'Movement and Development', aimed at improving speed, agility, balance, strength and coordination and 'Me and Myself', exploring how the body and how it works. Year 1 units will be Football and Badminton. In Football children will learn how to move into a good space, move with and without a ball, roll, kick and carry a ball, stop a ball, change direction when moving with a ball and then to use these skills in a game. In Badminton, children will learn to: move into space; control their body while moving; control the shuttle with their hands; track the shuttle; copy actions and to hit a shuttle with their hands.

<b>Art</b>	The half term we will be looking at self-portraits. Reception will have the opportunity to explore self-portraits using a variety of media, whereas Year 1 will develop sketching skills and look at different shading techniques and the effects of using different pencils.
<b>RE / Understanding the World</b>	Our RE topic this half term will be 'Our Wonderful World' and we will begin by going outside and capturing photos of things that we find wonderful in our world. We will then look at different religious stories about how the world was created, including the creation of the sky, plants and animals. The Hindu celebration of Diwali takes place in October, so we will share the story of Diwali and the children will have the opportunity to make Diya candle holders.
<b>Music / Expressive Art and Design</b>	Our unit this term is titled 'Me' which fits nicely with our topic. This unit will allow us to explore listening and responding to a variety of music, play games, use our voices to sing songs and explore pitch and perform in front of others.

### Reading

All Reception and Year 1 children are encouraged to enjoy books and develop a love of reading and stories. We will visit our fantastic school library each week and children will be encouraged to choose a book to take home to share with you. Library book change day to be confirmed.

**Reception:** Your child will be taking home a letter sound and high frequency word keyring. These will be updated each week when we have covered the new sounds and words in class. Please practise these daily, so that your child is able to keep up as we progress. Your child will also take home a reading book matched to our phonics scheme. Please try to read with your child at least 4-5 times each week and record this in your child's Reading Record Book. More information about how you can support your child with reading in the Early Years can be found in the school's Reading Policy.

**Year 1:** Please read with your child each day and help them to practise their spellings and recognition and spelling of high frequency words. Spellings will be given out every Thursday and tests will take place each Tuesday (unless no spelling have been given for that week).

Whilst your child is learning to read, we ask that you encourage your child to re-read their phonics book until they are able to read this book fluently. Re-reading the same book for fluency supports young readers to become more confident and engaged in reading. Please briefly record when your child reads by writing your initials on their reading bookmark. Your child shall be supported to change their book once to twice a week, if they are able to read their book fluently. This will be judged by your child's class teacher or teaching assistant.

**Each child will be read with once a week, however, please ensure that your child brings their reading folder to school every day. For this term, reading days are as follows:**

Day	Reception	Year 1
Monday	Alvina George D	Addison Brinley
Tuesday	George G George M	Emily M Emily W
Wednesday	Karenza Monty	Ernie Ernie
Thursday	Olivia Omari	Freddie Fynlay
Friday	Skye Vivaan	Harriet Larissa

### Forest School

Children in Darling Class will take part in regular Forest School sessions throughout the year. Being able to explore the natural world, take risks and learn new skills is hugely beneficial for children's confidence and holistic development. Forest School will be on a **Friday afternoon, beginning Friday 12<sup>th</sup> September.**

Forest School will take place whatever the weather, with the exception of high winds or thunderstorms. On Forest School days children should come dressed in layers of clothes suitable for being outdoors (clothes that you don't mind getting dirty) and appropriate for the weather. These must include long sleeves and trousers (no skirts, shorts or dresses), to protect from scratches and bites, including ticks. Extra socks, hat and gloves are recommended in cold weather. Children are asked to leave NAMED waterproof trousers and wellington boots in school.

We rely on parent helpers to make Forest School possible, without parent helpers Forest School cannot take place. So if you are able to volunteer (even if it is only once a term) please email [admin@stanton-st-quintin.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@stanton-st-quintin.wilts.sch.uk) or speak to Mrs Breen.

### P.E

**PE Days** will be **Wednesday** and **Thursday** each week.

On PE days we ask that Year 1 children come to school wearing PE clothing (joggers or shorts, school t-shirt) and footwear (trainers, no lace ups) for PE to ensure that they can fully take part. Reception children will be wearing PE clothes every day. Please help your child to practise taking off and putting on their socks and shoes independently.

## **Woodwork**

This half term we would like to introduce 'Woodwork' sessions for Reception, where they will learn to safely use woodworking tools. To get us started, we need the following donations:

- Sanding blocks
- Off-cuts of planed soft timber
- Rigid foam blocks
- Range of large round head nails (20-50mm long)
- Slices of soft logs

If you can donate any of these, we would be extremely grateful.

## **Baseline Assessment**

It is a statutory requirement that all Reception class children take the Reception Baseline Assessment within the first six weeks. This will consist of short practical task-based activities in maths and literacy and will help to track children's progress as they go through primary school. If you have any questions or concerns about this please do get in touch.

## **Items to bring to school**

We are trying to minimise what children bring with them to school in order to reduce the amount on children's pegs, which prevents them accessing the items that they need. Children ONLY need to bring in a named water bottle, named book bag, coat and waterproof trousers. If your child requires items for toileting, these can be brought in a bag and left on their peg.

## **Show and Tell**

Children often like to bring in items from home to show to the class, which is a fantastic opportunity to develop children's confidence speaking to the class and oracy skills. To ensure that this is fair and each child gets a turn, a 'Show and Tell' box will be sent home with one child each day, for them to put something into the box to show to the class the next day.

## **Important Dates**

**Year 1 Phonics Workshop – Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2.30pm-3.00pm**

**Reception Phonics Workshop – Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2.30pm-3.00pm**

**Darling Class winter performance Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December**

## **How you can support your child & contacting us:**

Your child's education is a partnership and we look forward to developing a close relationship with you.

We ask that you:

- Support your child in his/her learning through practice at home and promoting positive attitudes
- Encourage personal independence by making sure your child has the correct clothing, reading books and water bottles each day and practising taking off and put on their own socks, shoes, coats, hats and gloves
- Support the school's policies, including home learning
- Make sure your child is in school and on time
- Make sure that you have given us the updated permissions and contact information

The best way to contact us is to use the class email: [admin@stanton-st-quintin.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@stanton-st-quintin.wilts.sch.uk)

For urgent messages please call the school office on 01666 837602.

Please don't hesitate to get in contact if you have any questions or queries. The beginning of the day is a very busy time, so if you do have a longer message or enquiry, please do so at the end of the day or make an appointment.

We look forward to a very exciting term together and wish to thank you for your support.

Mrs Breen, Mrs Hunter, Mrs Harwood & Mr Stapleton