



# St. Lawrence Primary School

La Grande Route de St Laurent  
St Lawrence  
Jersey  
JE3 1NG

Telephone: 01534 863172  
Nursery: 01534 865524  
Email: admin@stlawrence.sch.je

Dear Parents,

We hope that your children have enjoyed their first week in Reception. Mrs Pemberton, Miss Manning and I have been very impressed by the children's ability to adapt to their new setting and expectations. We have had a great start to the year and have enjoyed meeting the class and getting to know them.

## **Morning Drop offs**

Morning drop-offs have been positive so far. Just a reminder that children should be dropped off at the Reception classroom door (parking is in the bottom car park and then walk up the stairs and along the field to drop off your child to the classroom door between **8:40 and 8:50am**. Please can we ask that if you would like to stand and chat after drop off that you do this in the lower playground (car park) to ensure Sean can lock the site after completing car park duty. The expectation is that parents say goodbye outside and the children enter the classroom independently.

If your child comes into school upset or tearful, they are nearly always happy by the time we ring the bell for the register. Should your child not settle, please be assured that we will contact you.

If you walk from home or from the parish car park, or if you drop off older siblings first, then you can walk around to the classroom door via the gate to the playground. Please ensure you close gates behind you.

**If you arrive after 8:50am**, please could you bring your child around to our main reception area where Mrs Sangster or Ms Juste, our admin team, will sign them in and bring them along to class. Due to safeguarding of all children there is a note on the main door to ask parents to wait in the Office area.

Once in the classroom the children follow our morning routine and unpack their bags independently. Mrs Pemberton, Miss Manning and I will guide and support them, where necessary. It would help if snacks are in their green bags. The children will also need a water bottle for the classroom. We respectfully ask that you do not put juice in this bottle as spillages can cause a sticky mess. The children can refill their water bottles when they are empty. They are prompted at regular intervals to have a drink and rewarded with house points if they manage to drink all the water in their bottle before the end of the day. If you notice they are regularly not drinking a lot then please let us know and we will provide some extra encouragement. The children only need one snack or one snack pot. We highly recommend fruit or vegetables for snack, as we find they will often eat these well alongside their peers. Please avoid packing yoghurts or smoothies for snack.

**Please follow the lunchbox guidelines for allergies (no nuts or seeds please).**

## **Lunchboxes –**

Please read our lunchbox policy on the School website. [OCR Document](#) Please remember **NO SEEDS OR NUTS** in snack or lunchboxes due to allergies within the class/school. (This includes hummus, peanut butter, Nutella/chocolate/nut spreads)

## **Autumn Term**

Our main focus during this first term in the Reception Class is to create a positive classroom ethos and

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familiarise the children with the environment and routines within the Reception class. The children will be getting to know each other and their new classroom and developing their independence – putting away their coats, book bags, lunchboxes and water bottles.

We have already created our own 'Class Charter' (rules) and used this as an opportunity to reinforce the sort of classroom ethos we would like. The children will be 'signing' this charter next week. Our aim is to establish a happy classroom community where we have respect for other people and for property, where everybody is safe and everybody can be a successful learner. We also have a visual behaviour flow chart to aid children in following the class rules.

As you may know, St Lawrence school values are Independence, Responsibility and Success. These too are reflected in our class charter, but we use a house point system to embed them further. We frequently point out and celebrate examples of the school values that we see and award house points. The children are assigned to a 'House' and these are colour coded – Rocco (red), Seymour (blue), Kempt (green) and Lewis (purple). Children are encouraged to wear House Colours for various school events (such as Sports Day). If your child has an older sibling in school then your child will be in the same house as them. Your child will come home with a note to confirm which 'house' they are in.

## **Literacy and Reading**

We will begin literacy sessions next week, once we are sure that the children are familiar and comfortable in the classroom, and we feel they are ready for more structured whole-class teacher inputs. The children will be following the 'Read, Write, Inc.' phonics programme and will be learning new sounds and then learning how to 'blend' sounds together to make words. Our first sounds will be m, a, s, d, i and t. As soon as the children have consistent, speedy recognition of these sounds they can begin blending short consonant-vowel-consonant words like 'sat', 'sit', 'mad', 'dim', 'sad' etc. From there we continue to introduce new sounds in a set order and build up their confidence blending other simple words.

**At this stage we do not learn letter names. We focus on the 'pure sounds' (without the 'uh')**

Watch the [Sound Pronunciation Guide video](#) to help you.

<https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/reading-owl/find-a-book/read-write-inc-phonics--1/phonics-pure-sounds-video>

**To be on track to achieve the Early Learning Goal in Reading and Writing, your child should be able to confidently recognise all of the 25 single letter sounds by the end of the Autumn Term.**

Each Thursday, our Reception Children will visit the school library to choose a book to bring home and share with you. We are very fortunate in that we have a volunteer (Mrs Renault) who takes the children to choose their new library book and asks them questions about the story to develop early comprehension skills, or at times they will practise turn taking games. Please could you ensure that your child has their book in their reading folders every Thursday so that they can benefit from these sessions – thank you. Please ensure the books are returned in the Library book folder. **Library folders and books will start coming home on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> September.**

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## **Numeracy**

We will be following the White Rose Maths scheme this year. The first few weeks are set aside for getting to know the children, as described above. The early focus will be on counting and comparing groups of items up to 10, as well as counting to 20. They will also sort items and match them with others that have similarities, and there will be opportunities through independent play to share, measure, and compare. Any games at home involving dice and recognising the number on the dice, without counting the dots, would support your child in working towards achieving the Early Learning Goals in Mathematics.

## **RE**

Reception will be following the new Jersey RE syllabus. The main focus in Reception will be on belonging, the natural world and communities. Reception focuses mainly on the Christian religion. Please share with me any other religions or celebrations that your child is exposed to or celebrates. We will also look at other celebrations and religions based on the children's interests.

**Open the Door** - we have a group of volunteers who come to school every two weeks to give Reception and Year 1 children a puppet show of a Bible story. This supports the Christianity units of learning in our school's KS1(Y1 and Y2) RE curriculum, which also includes Judaism and Islam.

In RE we take the approach that educators would say, 'some people believe that' or 'Christians believe' etc. so that children can explore their own views as well as the views of others.

The Jersey Curriculum for RE states that it is a subject that explores people's responses, beliefs, traditions, cultures, behaviours and diversity as well as supporting pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. It is very much in this spirit that we deliver RE lessons at St Lawrence.

If there are any special Religious celebrations that your child or their family celebrate then please let us know. It would be amazing if you would be happy to share this with the class.

## **Independent Activities**

We have a wide range of resources in the classroom that the children are free to access independently. There will also be a range of teacher-directed activities. The children will have access to the outdoor area every day so please ensure that your child has wellington boots (named). We have some puddle suits and waterproof trousers for the children to use when at school— we like to go out in all weathers! If your child would like to keep a spare pair of dry socks in their bag to change into independently then please pop them into their green bag.

We observe the children in their play and look for ways we can add to it or enhance the way they are accessing resources to progress their learning.

Please ensure sun cream, when it may be needed is applied before your child comes to school in the morning. Please also remember named sun hats on days when the sun may appear.

## **Other activities**

Our Forest School will be accessed in small groups in the afternoon. More information about these types of activities can be found at [www.forestschoools.com](http://www.forestschoools.com).

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Our PE days will be Mondays and Fridays. On Monday we are supported by Sports Bugs, where the children develop a range of skills linked to the Early Learning Goals. On a Friday we will have a dance lesson with Dragos from Step By Step Dance school. Please could your child come into school on a Monday and Friday in their PE kits (either shorts or tracksuit bottoms, depending on the weather). Every day the children have access to outdoor play equipment such as balls, hula hoops, and stilts, which aids their physical development. *Your child may prefer to wear their PE kit throughout the week. If they are more comfortable in this then they are welcome to wear it all week.*

## Other reminders

Our school has a Facebook page – look out for our school logo – and a website [www.stlawrence.sch.je](http://www.stlawrence.sch.je) and you can keep up to date with information using these sites. In addition, we operate a 'Parent Email' service to keep you informed. Mr Charlesworth sends out a weekly note. There is also a Reception 'What's App' group – please let me know if you wish to be added to this, and I will speak with the PTA members. If you do not wish to be part of this then please let me know as at times it is used to share messages about PTA events or updates,

Pick up times are at 3pm and seem to have been working well. Whoever is collecting your child should have a QR code, and they are then released via the external Hall doors if you are on foot, or they are escorted down to the car park. If someone different is collecting your child then they will need the QR code, and please let me know. If your child attends after school club please can you let me know the days they will be attending.

## Ways to help at home

Please help your child practise these skills at home to support them to complete them independently at school;

- opening packets
  - unpeeling fruit
  - putting their rubbish in the bin
  - saying please and thank you
  - independently tidying up their toys
  - putting coats on and fastening buttons/ pulling zips up and down
  - Putting socks and shoes on
  - Putting jumpers/cardigans on/off
  - Turning jumpers and cardigans the right way when inside out.
- 
- Practise writing their names
  - Look for numbers in the environment
  - Identify letters that have been taught in the environment
  - CBBC – Numberblocks

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- Singing nursery rhymes
- Reading Traditional tales
- Re-telling stories verbally
- Talking about what has happened in stories and why
- Asking and answering questions
- Trips to the library
- Mark making – shopping lists, letters, cards
- Counting up to and back from 10
- Identifying the number that comes before and after a number to 10, e.g. 1 more than 5 is....
- Saying how many objects are in a group of up to 5 objects, without counting (this is called subitizing)
- Practising correctly forming the sounds that have been taught.

***You can watch videos of the formation here -***

***<https://www.bing.com/videos/riverview/relatedvideo?&q=Letter+a+Formation&&mid=B8F55AE3FED804C3CADAB8F55AE3FED804C3CADA&&FORM=VRDGAR> (it should then bring up links to a variety of letters)***

Mrs Pemberton, Miss Manning and I are really looking forward to working with you and your children this term. We have lots of exciting activities planned and we are very proud of the children so far.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to email me. If it is urgent please email the school office (admin@stlawrence.sch.je), as I do not always get to emails during the school day.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Lowry  
[m.lowry@stlawrence.sch.je](mailto:m.lowry@stlawrence.sch.je)

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