



# 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

6<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Dear Parents,

We hope that your children have enjoyed their first week in Reception. Mrs Vautier and I have been very impressed by the children's ability to adapt to their new setting and expectations. We feel that 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 Mr L'Amy (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, our secretary, will sign them in and she will then 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/Library area.

Once in the classroom the children are expected to follow the morning routine and unpack their bags independently, Mrs Vautier 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. We are happy for the children to leave the classroom water bottle in the classroom. They can refill it daily. 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. 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 familiarise the children with the environment and routines within the Reception class. The

### *Our Mission:*

*'To develop responsible, independent individuals who love learning and have the knowledge and attitudes to be successful in an ever changing world'.*





# 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

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 'Classroom Rules' and used this as an opportunity to reinforce the sort of classroom ethos we would like. The children will be 'signing' these rules 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 is able to 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 rules, but we use a house point system to embed them further. Mrs Vautier and I 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 in the next few weeks, 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 are able to 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>

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.

## **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.

## **RE**

*Our Mission:*

*'To develop responsible, independent individuals who love learning and have the knowledge and attitudes to be successful in an ever changing world'.*





# 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

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 and jackets 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 also have a box to keep their (named) sun hats in. 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.

## 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).

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.*

One group of children each term will have the opportunity to benefit from one term of free swimming lessons, based at Le Mourier Swim School. These will take place on a Wednesday afternoon.

The first swimming group will bring home a letter next week. The first lesson will be on Wednesday 18th September. Please can those children who are swimming wear their PE kit on a Wednesday. A different group will begin their swimming after Christmas, and another group after Easter.

## *Our Mission:*

*'To develop responsible, independent individuals who love learning and have the knowledge and attitudes to be successful in an ever changing world'.*





# 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](mailto:admin@stlawrence.sch.je)

## **Other reminders**

Please help them practise opening packets, unpeeling fruit and putting their rubbish in the bin. After snack they then independently put their snack pots in their green bags.

Please help them practise putting coats, socks and shoes on independently. It would also be great if you could encourage your child to put jumpers on and off independently.

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. 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.

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.

## **Dates for this term**

**27th September** – Dress down day (Jersey Heart support)

**18<sup>th</sup> December (afternoon)** EYFS/KS1 Christmas show

Mrs Vautier and I are really looking forward to working with 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 Ms Sangster, 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)

## *Our Mission:*

*'To develop responsible, independent individuals who love learning and have the knowledge and attitudes to be successful in an ever changing world'.*

