



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

5th January 2026

Dear Parents,

We hope that your children have enjoyed their first week back after the Christmas Holidays. The children have settled back into the routines quickly and are enjoying being together again.

Morning Drop offs

From next week we will begin to open the classroom door from 8:40am – 8:45am. If you are happy and confident that your child will walk up through the hall with the rest of the school and independently make their way to the classroom you can also begin to drop them off at the school hall from 8:30am. Children can now walk through the school hall door and up the corridor to the classroom.

Once your child arrives in class they are encouraged to unpack their bags, independently. They can then begin playing with some of the tabletop activities or read a book. Please remind your child if they have letters in their bag to give them to us, as we do not get the opportunity to check 22 bags each morning. If a sibling is bringing them to class, you could also ask them to prompt your child. If a letter is coming back each day or anything is urgent, then please drop the admin team an email and they will notify me.

If your child comes into school upset or tearful, they are nearly always happy within a few minutes. Should your child not settle, please be assured that we will contact you.

If you arrive after 8:45am, please could you bring your child around to our main reception area where Ms Sangster or Mrs Juste will sign them in and bring them along to class.

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 school, peanut butter, Nutella/chocolate/nut spreads)

www.stlawrence.sch.je/wp-content/uploads/LunchboxPolicy.pdf

Snacks

Most days we eat our snack together as a class whilst listening to a story. The children have approximately 10 – 15 minutes to eat their snack. Children are asked to bring their water bottles to the carpet to have a drink with their snack. We try to encourage some fruit and vegetables. Please no sweets.

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Spring Term

This term children will continue to work towards following the class and school rules. We have a visual flow chart in class with clear expectations.

We will continue to promote independence. To achieve the 'Personal, Social and Emotional Early Learning goal' at the end of Reception year, the children need to:

"Manage their own basic hygiene and personal needs, including dressing, going to the toilet and understanding the importance of healthy food choices"

It would be great if you could help encourage your child to independently put on coats, zip/button them up.

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 Pemberton, Miss Le Brun and I frequently point out and celebrate examples of the school values that we see and award house points.

Reading

www.youtube.com/watch?v=9TC8c2se0xs&t=247s

We have started RWI sessions again. The children are assessed every 6 – 8 weeks and are grouped based on their technical reading ability. It is important at this early stage that we create good routines and support children to consolidate skills to support them as they move through the school, rather than rushing them and missing key things e.g. letter formation or adding too much pressure. At this point in the year we would expect the children to be working in Ditty group to be on track to achieve their Early Learning Goal in Reading.

Read, Write Inc Groups

Once the children have been assessed and are grouped then they will be taught in smaller ability groups by one of the trained Read Write Inc teachers. Read Write Inc sessions will start at 9am, so it is important that the children are in school by 8:45am, to allow them to settle and be prepared for learning.

In the groups the children will be re-capping the sounds they have been previously taught, and some 'special friends' (more than one letter making a sound e.g. ch, sh, th, qu, ck, ll, ff, ss, zz, ng, nk)

We will continue to practise oral blending and some groups will begin to blend sounds together to read 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>

Blending video - www.youtube.com/watch?v=dEzfpod5w_Q

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Writing

Opportunities at home to develop gross motor and fine motor skills will all help towards writing skills. The handwriting policy (www.stlawrence.sch.je/wp-content/uploads/Handwriting-policy-update-March-21.pdf) is on the school website and models how to form each letter. It is important to use the rhymes to help the children correctly form the letters – if for example they start ‘p’ from the bottom practising drawing lines from top to bottom will help, if they incorrectly form ‘a’, practising drawing ‘c’ from top to bottom will support this. This could be writing in sand/mud, tracing on their back, air drawing.

Letter formation videos area available on this website – some of the speak a little quickly, so you may want to slow down the playback speed of your video.

Letter formation videos - www.youtube.com/channel/UCEZhrFZlv6caOgIgfIHW-Ug/videos

Library (Thursday)

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) in class on a Thursday which allows us to release an adult to take the children in small groups to choose their new library book and asks them questions about their old book. This is an invaluable opportunity to help develop speaking skills. 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. If due to staffing their book is not changed on a Thursday, we will keep them in the basket to change on a Friday.

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 and will wear puddle suits and wellies on the wet days. They also wear them when accessing the mud kitchen. 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.

Other activities (PE Thursday and Friday)

Our PE days will be Thursdays and Fridays. On Thursday we will be doing a range of activities, 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 Thursday 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.

Other reminders

Please could you ensure that your child has a named water bottle with them every day (separate to their lunchbox) as well as a mid-morning snack (if in a pot, please ensure this is named). It would be useful if these were sent in in the green book bag. Once the lunchboxes have been placed on the trolleys in the corridor outside of the classroom, they do not have access to them until lunchtime, **hence the need for their snack and water bottle to be separate.**

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Mrs Pemberton and I are excited to continue working with you and your child 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, daily.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Lowry
m.lowry@stlawrence.sch.je

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