



# 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

September 2022

Dear Parents,

We hope that your children have enjoyed their first week in Reception. Mrs Bugbird 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 have been very positive so far. Just a reminder that children should be dropped off at the steps from the Reception car park where I will meet them between 8:40 am and 8:50 am. The expectation is that parents say goodbye at the bottom of the steps, rather than going up to the playground. Currently there is flexibility around this for those children who find drop-off difficult, but in the coming weeks we would like to reduce this, please. If your child comes into school upset or tearful, they are nearly always happy by the time we reach the classroom. 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 drop your child to Mrs Bugbird on the playground. To do this please use the black gate to the left of the external Hall doors. If you arrive after 8:50am, please could you bring your child around to our main reception area where Mrs Ward, our secretary will sign them in.

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 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 want. The children will be 'signing' these rules this 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.

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 Bugbird and I frequently point out and celebrate examples of the school values that we see and award a house point. 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).

## 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, l and t. As soon as the children have good speed recognition of these sounds they are able to begin blending short

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





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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.

Every Thursday morning, 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 their old book. This is an invaluable opportunity to help develop speaking skills and the children have benefitted hugely from these sessions in our Nursery Class. 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.

## 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.

## Topic

Our first topic will be 'People who help us'. We will look at fiction texts that include characters who help us – Police, Nurses, Doctors, and Vets etc, and also non-fiction texts on this theme. We will enhance the children's independent play by adding resources to our key classroom areas to encourage related role play and discussion. If you have or know anybody who has a job like those mentioned, we would love to invite you in to speak briefly to the children (for around 10 minutes) about what your job involves and how you help others. I am sure the children would love to hear about what you do and have the opportunity to ask questions. Please let us know if you can help.

## 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 a puddle suit and wellington boots (all named) – we like to go out in all weathers! 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

We are very lucky in Reception to have the wonderful Mrs Bugbird, who is a trained Forest School Leader. Our Forest School will be accessed in small groups in the afternoon. More information about these types of activities can be found at [www.forestschools.com](http://www.forestschools.com).

Our PE day will be Fridays, when we will have a dance lesson with Dragos from Step By Step Dance school. Please could your child come into school on a 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.

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One group of children each term will have the opportunity to benefit from a term of free swimming lessons based at Le Mourier Swim School. These will take place on a Wednesday afternoon, and we are just working out our groupings. Once we know which children will be in the first group we will let you know. The first lesson will be on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> 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 after Easter.

## 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. It would be useful if these were sent in in the green book bags we have given out please. Once the lunchboxes have been placed on the trolleys as we enter class in the morning, the children do not access them until lunchtime, **hence the need for their snack and water bottle to be separate.**

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 we also use for morning drop off.

Mrs Bugbird 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 come and see me or to email me.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Lucas  
[v.lucas@stlawrence.sch.je](mailto:v.lucas@stlawrence.sch.je)

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