



The Two Way Street

Dear Parents/Carers,

We hope you all had a fantastic summer. As the new school year commences, as always we are looking forward to many exciting things that are planned throughout the year, across the whole school! We also welcome the new families whose children have joined us for this year.

This year, we have gone back to mixed year groups in Years One and Two and Years Three and Four. There are three mixed age classes in these year groups, but they split into four groups for Maths and English so that they can be taught these subjects in their year groups. We do find that mixed year groups really support transition as the older children look after the younger ones and demonstrate the standards and expectations of their new year group. Years Five and Six have remained separate so that preparation for SATs does not impact on the learning of children in Year Five.

Last year, we began the Accelerated Reading Programme, which has had a hugely positive impact on reading across the school. The children have already taken their 'Star Test' this term, which will have given them a 'ZPD' - a range of reading book levels that are suitable for them. They really enjoy completing quizzes about their books on the computer when they have finished reading them, and these quizzes help us to ensure that they are not simply reading the words, but understanding the content too. We recommend that children begin choosing books at the lower end of the ZPD, and gradually move up through the levels if they continually score highly on the quizzes.

We have seen some great progress in reading, and the feedback from the children has been really positive. If you have any questions, please come in and speak to your child's class teacher or Mrs Perry, who would be happy to help.



Frequently asked questions:

Q: Why can't my child do a club this term that she has done for the previous few terms?

A: We try to offer a range of clubs and activities for the children to take part in, and often these clubs have long waiting lists due to high demand! We try to ensure that all children have the opportunity to attend clubs, so therefore we give priority to those children who were on the waiting list from the last time the club was held. We rotate the children who wish to attend the clubs on a termly basis, so each child should get an opportunity to attend at some stage in the year.

If you have any comments, concerns or questions - why don't you email us on our brand new address specifically for the 'Two Way Street'

Email address:

office@st-johns.walsall.sch.uk

