

Yangtze and Limpopo Latest

8th September 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to a brand new academic year! We are very excited to be working with your wonderful children and the two Year 5 classes have had a great start to term.

Each week, we will send out an update to give you an idea of what has been going on and to let you know what is coming up. It is important to read this letter and the more general news letter that goes out from school on a Friday, so that you know what is going on.

The Year 5 children have enjoyed settling in to their new classes and making the space their own. They have been very industrious, making an impressive start in Maths, enjoying refreshing their skill in manipulating number and using a variety of operations. In Literacy, the children have created the most amazing acrostic poems as part of the launch of our theme for the term: **Imagination**.

From next week on, the time tables and curriculum maps for each class will be available. On Thursdays, Yangtze class will have Ms van der Zee. In the afternoon, she will deliver a unit on music, while the Limpopo class will be taught Spanish by Miss Lavandeira. There will be homework set on a Friday to be given in on the following Wednesday. We ask children to learn the times table and spellings for the week and do the work set on MyMaths, but the rest of the homework is optional, selected from a 'Take Away Menu', building towards homework certificates.

Please could you make sure that your child has a pair of indoor shoes in school for the start of next week and their P.E. kit.

Accompanying this letter, there is more information relating to Year 5. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask. You will be able to find us in our classrooms at the beginning and end of each day for quick chats. Alternatively, you can contact us by email (see below).

We are really looking forward to getting to know you and your children, this year. If any of you would like to help or share expertise or skills in any way we would love to hear from you.

With best wishes and great anticipation of the year ahead.

Mrs Horn and Mr Panzer.

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Class Essentials:

1. Morning Routines

- a. Please do not go to classrooms before 8.40 a.m. (you may wait with your child in the hall from 8.30-8.40).
- b. Please arrive before 8.55 a.m. (if you are late you will need to sign your child into the 'late' book at reception).
- c. All children should bring a water bottle to school, and KS2 are encouraged to bring a morning fruit break (these are provided free for Reception and KS1).
- d. All children in Reception and KS1 are now eligible for free school meals, but they may bring a packed lunch if they prefer. These should include a healthy balance of protein, fruit and veg and carbohydrate. No sweets or energy drinks please.
- e. All KS1 classes and Reception have a communication book for parents who are not collecting their children at the end of the school day, to write down their child's after school arrangements including Ebenezer's. This should be done daily.
- f. Diana Forbes is available in the hall from 8.40-9.00 for all payments and clubs.
- g. Jo Williams or Susanne Addis are available for all other queries that do not involve money at reception.
- h. For after school clubs, please liaise with the provider directly – their email addresses are on the after school club flyer which can be found on the home page of our website

<http://st-ebbes.oxon.sch.uk>

2. Kit

- a. We have no school uniform at St. Ebbe's, but children must dress appropriately for active learning and play and wear shoes that they can run around in. We also recommend children to bring sun hats to school when necessary.
- b. All KS1 and KS2 children need a pair of outdoor shoes suitable for wearing in bad weather on the field, and a change of shoes to wear indoors; these should be plimsoll style (no flip flops, crocs or slippers). Children in our EYFS need one pair of shoes and a pair of wellington boots for the outdoor learning area.
- c. All KS1 and KS2 children need navy shorts or leggings and a blue T-shirt in a named bag for P.E. The Health & Safety officer has advised that jewellery can be dangerous when worn during P.E. sessions and also to avoid loss we ask that no jewellery be worn to school except studs for pierced ears. Also for health and safety reasons, all children with long hair should have it tied back.
- d. Y3-Y4 will all go swimming during the year. Children must wear a swimming hat (available from the office), and goggles may not be worn without written permission from the child's parent.

3. Attendance

- a. If your child is ill, please ring and notify the office before 9.30 a.m.
- b. If there are exceptional circumstances, parents may apply to the head teacher for leave of absence using the official form. The head teacher will not authorise time off for holidays in term time. Please see our Attendance Policy for further details.

4. KS1 and KS2 Homework

- a. Children must read daily (preferably to an adult until they are fluent readers).

- b. Children will have weekly spellings and tables which must be learnt.
- c. In addition teachers will provide a variety of optional activities in the form of a 'choose your own' list related to the curriculum theme for the term. Teachers will award bronze, silver or gold certificates for this homework.

5. Parent Partnership

- a. If you are available to help regularly in your child's class, please talk to the class teacher.
- b. We often need parent help for curriculum visits. Teachers will include a request for help in the visit letter.
- c. We have an active parent association called SESA (St Ebbe's School Association) that organises fundraising and social events. For further information please contact SESA at sesastebbes@gmail.com
- d. We also have a parent council that meets with the head teacher or deputy and parent governors every term. The council is made up of representatives from each class. Please contact SESA if you are interested in serving on this council sesastebbes@gmail.com
- e. We have lots of school events involving parents and for parents throughout the year. Dates will be added to our website calendar once they have been confirmed and shared in the weekly newsletter.

6. Communication

- a. Mrs Bagnall is available at the front gate most mornings from 8.40-9.00 a.m. for any general queries.
- b. We send out a weekly newsletter on Friday containing important information and dates and news. You need to sign up to receive this at the bottom of the homepage on our website <http://st-ebbes.oxon.sch.uk>.
- c. All other classes publish a weekly curriculum letter on the class area of our website. Please keep up to date by referring to this weekly.
- d. Our school website is at <http://st-ebbes.oxon.sch.uk/> this includes our school calendar.
- e. If you have any concerns about your child's learning or welfare, in the first instance, please speak to their class teacher. It is best to do this after school in order not to delay class registration. If your child's teacher is not able to resolve the issue, please make an appointment at reception to speak to Mrs Bagnall.
- f. We hold parent-teacher consultations in December and March and reports are sent home at the end of the school year.