

St James' Church of England First School & Nursery
Park Lane
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Headteacher: Miss Jo Hudson
Assistant Headteacher: Mrs Kathryn Cousins



11 September 2026

Dear Parents/Carers of Squirrels Class,

This letter is to tell you the routines and expectations in our class, so that the day-to-day running can go as smoothly as possible. I hope that the information below answers any questions that you may have at this stage.

With growing numbers of children in our classes the cloakrooms are unfortunately unable to accommodate children's large backpacks; particularly as we head into the time of year when we also have bulky coats, wellies etc. Children only need to bring in their book bag, lunchbox and water bottle to school each day.

Break/ snack times:

- Children will have a piece of fruit provided each day. You can provide them with a snack from home if you would like to but please make sure this is fruit or vegetable based.
- Please send your child in with a **named** water bottle.
- Please make sure that any food sent into school has **NO NUTS**. This includes cereal bars.

Reading books:

- The reading books (book bag book) that your child is receiving will be changed on a Tuesday this will be from one level below to help build confidence and independence until I feel your child is ready to move onto their phonics level.
- The phonics book (paper copy) will be changed once per week. This will be from your child's phonics teacher and will be a familiar story. Please ensure these are kept in their book bags so we can change them weekly. This may be on a different day each week as we are on a rolling schedule.
- The books should be kept in their book bags **AT ALL TIMES** as children will be asked to read in school. Book bags **MUST** be in school each day.
- Please try to read with your child as often as possible but at least 3 times a week. It is also helpful to question your child and talk about the story and characters.
- Please write in your child's reading record after each time you have heard them read.

Home learning:

- A knowledge organiser will be sent home which will include information about the learning your child will complete this term. As part of this there will be one home learning project to complete with your child.
- In addition to the home learning project on the knowledge organiser, there will be spellings to learn and maths skills to practice.
- Home learning may be set by your child's RWI teacher in the form of sounds to practice, words to learn or books to read.

Outdoor/physical lessons:

- Children will do PE twice a week; on **Monday afternoon** with Mr Spinks and **Friday morning** with Miss Bowler. Please send your child into school dressed in PE kit and wearing sturdy trainers so that they can run freely.



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- Our Forest School session will now be on a **Friday afternoon** with Miss Bowler. Forest school sessions will continue whatever the weather as much as possible so please make sure your child is dressed appropriately. The weeks will alternate with year 1 having their session one week and year 2 having it the following week.
- Please send in a pair of wellie boots or pair of trainers in a bag that can stay in school for use during these sessions. These must be kept in a bag so that they can be kept safely on their pegs.

Changes from Reception

- Your child is now in their first year of the national curriculum as they have previously been in the early years. This means that they will be learning a lot more content than they may be used to. It is really helpful if you quiz them about their learning to help them remember throughout the year!
- In reception you would have received a slip every time your child had an injury in accordance with the Early Years Framework. From year 1 onwards, you will only receive a slip if it is an injury to the head. All other injuries are recorded on our internal system.

It is very important to us that your child enjoys their time in Year 1 so if you feel that there are any problems whatsoever please do not hesitate to contact me using the staff@alderholt.dorset.sch.uk email address. It is really important to us as a school that we continue to keep lines of communication open.

Kind regards.

Miss Claudia Bowler