



Sapphire Class Newsletter

Thorpe Church of England Primary school

Faith, Love and Excellence

Autumn Term

September 2023



Dear Parents,

Welcome to Sapphire Class and thank you all so much for welcoming us into your homes; it has been wonderful to have the chance to chat with you and see your children at their most confident.

Since then, it has been lovely to see the children start school with excitement and enthusiasm. The next couple of weeks will be spent learning about the school routines and settling in to school life.

If you have any questions please do see a member of the Sapphire teaching team.

Many thanks

The Sapphire Team

Miss Wallage M-W, Mrs Warren Th, F,
Mrs Manning SNA, Mrs Downs TA M, T
Mrs Sevier TA W-F

Dates for your diary

Phonics information session for parents -

Thursday 28th September at 9am

Harvest Service - Friday 6th October
2023

Please send your child in their **PE Kits** on **Wednesdays** for PE with Mr Orriss, our PE specialist.

Nut Free School

Please make sure any food sent in for snack or packed lunch do not contain nuts. This includes **coconut** in food and in hair and skin products.. Thank you.

Newsletters

On Fridays you will receive the school newsletter by email. This newsletter contains information about what is happening at school, as well as important dates.

Half termly you will receive a class newsletter giving a more detailed outline of what is happening in Sapphire class.

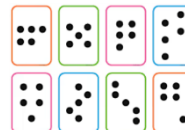
What will we be learning?

In the first few weeks of term we will be getting to know each other, learning routines and finding the way around the school. Please help your child to say goodbye and come in to class in the morning.

We will be practising writing our names and beginning letter formation, alongside learning the sounds of the first set of phonic sounds.

We will be focusing on one book per week starting with The Gruffalo! Lots of our continuous provision will be based on these books.

We will be learning number songs and rhymes, counting and subitising (the ability to look at a small number of objects and instantly recognise how many objects there are without needing to count i.e. all of these representations shows 5)



More information about what we are learning each week will be written on the whiteboard outside the classroom and more detailed planning will be found on our school's website.

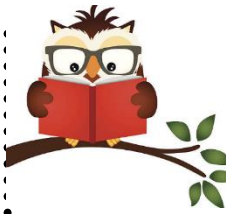
Please ensure the children have the following named items at school with them every day:

- A bottle of water
- A healthy fruit snack (for the morning - In the afternoon the children will have the opportunity to have a piece of fruit that will be provided by the school.
- Their Home School Link book and reading book
- A book bag
- Wellington boots- these can stay at school on the rack outside the classroom
- You are also welcome to bring spare clothes in for your child should you feel they may need them. We also have spare clothing in case of accidents.

Names

Please ensure that **everything** your child brings/wears to school has their full name clearly displayed. Any lost property will be in the box in the junior corridor but if items are named they will usually make it back to Sapphire Class!





Home learning

Reading

We want to foster a love of reading so please just read, read and read! If you haven't joined already, we would highly recommend signing up to the local library which is full of a variety and exciting books!













Initially, the children will bring home a **library book every Thursday** for a parent/ carer to read to them at home. It is very important that you **re-read the book** several times over the week with your child. Re-reading the book, allows children to pick up new information, dive deeper into the meaning of the book, and make connections between themselves and the book and make links with other books they have read. It helps children to build a **wider vocabulary** and helps them understand how language and reading work. Encourage your child to retell the story in their own words using the pictures and encourage your child to finish the endings especially if there are rhyming words. I.e. "A mouse took a stroll through the deep dark wood. A fox saw the house and the mouse looked ____."

After we have covered the first set of sounds in our phonics sessions, we will start sending home '**I can blend sheets**'. The children will also have a **phonically decodable book** for them to read along with an **e-book**. More information will be sent out in a few weeks time!



Letter formation and pencil grip

We will be working hard to develop a good pencil grip. To develop this, we will be working on developing our fine motor skills through using one handed tools this half term including using scissors, tweezers and large pegs as well as threading and peg boards. Please help your child practise holding pencils and pens using the correct tripod grip (nip, flip and grip) and encourage them to mark makes as much as possible! Colouring in, tracing lines and pictures, drawing pictures and even writing lists or greeting cards if they so wish!

s		Over the top, across the front and under the sun.	m		Down then over the mice and flick.
a		Around the apple and flick.	d		Curl around the dog's body, up and down his back and flick.
t		Down the tap and curl for his tail. Then add the arms.	g		Around the goat's tummy and down the tail.
i		Down the insect's body and flick. Add the eye.	o		Around the octopus.
p		Down the panhandle, back up and around the pan.	c		Curl around the cat's face.
n		Down and over the net.	k		Down the kite, back to the middle and over the kite's puffy tail and down the string.



Opal Play As a whole school we have many exciting activities for the children at lunchtime play. To get the most out of this opportunity, each child should have a pair of NAMED wellington boots and a NAMED waterproof coat with a hood. Please note that your children may get muddy and as we are teaching them to manage risks they may have the odd bump and scrape; Opal Play call this 'hurt and dirt' - we have a comprehensive risk assessment and will be teaching children how to keep themselves safe.

Sapphire Class will be participating in OPAL in a few weeks time.