

Headteacher's Update – 22.9.23

Dear Parents,

Playground Equipment Update

It's been a week full of heavy rain, but we are really pleased that the playground workers have still managed to make a good start to laying the flooring surface for our new play equipment. We're really hopeful that the children will be able to have a go on it all in a week or so as they've been really patient while the work is completed.

Bling Your Bike – Wednesday 27th September

As part of our school travel plan which encourages as many of you as possible to consider sustainable ways of getting to and from school, we will be holding another 'bling your bike' day as part of cycle to school week. You have already received a separate letter about the event, and we hope to see lots of amazing, eye catching bikes and scooters on Wednesday.

Staying Safe Online – Whats App

We know that many of our older pupils have their own mobile phones and that we live in a world that is constantly connected. While this may have its benefits, it is also well worth knowing about the downsides too. Attached to this newsletter is a poster from National Online Safety full of information about what you need to know as a parent about Whats App. It is worth pointing out that the age restriction in the UK is 16 years old. Please read the poster as it contains lots of useful information.



We constantly remind our pupils that they should only send messages that they would be happy to show an adult and that they would be willing to say to someone in person. Please help our children to learn how to use social media in a kind and considerate way, whilst also staying safe.

House and Vice Captains

I am so proud of everyone in Y6 who put themselves forward for the role of House Captain. They really lived the Brave value as set out below. Writing and delivering a speech to others is a skill some adults still find daunting.

Broadening Horizons (KS2)
Respond with courage to new and challenging situations and support others experiencing fear and doubt

Everyone who took part really demonstrated their courage and also their support for others. I wish they could all be captains! They are voted for by the members of their House from across the school, and the votes were incredibly tight in some cases. Although the Y6 pupils know who was elected, the rest of the school will get to meet their new House and Vice Captains in a special assembly next week and I will share photos and names with you in my next update.

Phonics Meeting

Thank you to all of you who were able to join us for the information evening about how we teach phonics and early reading at St Louis. I appreciate how willing you were to join in and have a go at a phonics session and adding sound buttons to words. The intention is that you will now feel confident in supporting your child with their sounds and reading at home, or at least be familiar with the terms your child is using.

Thank you to Miss Morrissey for leading these sessions so ably.

New Starters – Buddy Assembly

We have now welcomed all our Nursery and Reception children full time. We know that starting in a new setting can take some children a little while to adjust to which is why we focus so heavily on the personal, social and emotional development of our children in the first term. One way we support our children is through our Buddy system, where a child in Reception is partnered with a child in Y4 who will help guide them during their time at our school. This becomes one of the most special relationships our children develop and we look forward to welcoming our Reception parents to the buddy assembly next week, where you will also get to meet your child's buddy and see them welcomed into their school House.

I look forward to seeing you there. It's always a lovely occasion.

Once again, I wish you a lovely weekend,

Mrs Machin



Learning at St Louis



Reception

We have been learning: 4 new sounds 's', 'a', 't', 'p'

You can help at home by: asking your child to say words beginning with these sounds.

Year 1

We have been learning: about the changes in the seasons.

You can help at home by: going on a walk and looking for changes in the environment.

Year 2

We have been learning: to partition a 2-digit number.

You can help at home by: asking your child to partition any 2-digit number e.g. $54=50+4$, $27=20+7$

Year 3

We have been learning: how to use a thesaurus to find interesting adjectives to improve our writing.

You can help at home by: playing word games to encourage the use of adventurous vocabulary and by practicing using a thesaurus at home.

Year 4

We have been learning: about electricity and the components of a circuit.

You can help at home by: asking your child the elements of a circuit and how they work.

Year 5

We have been learning: about the viscosity of different liquids.

You can help at home by: asking your child which liquids were the most and least viscous.

Year 6

We have been learning: about refraction in science.

You can help at home by: asking your child about some examples of refraction we might see every day.