

## **The 'What's What' Guide to the Early Years Foundation Stage at St. John's**

No doubt your child has, or will, come home from school and used a term that you're unfamiliar with. We hope that this glossary will help you make sense of what they're talking about!

**2Build-a-Profile:** We use iPads to capture your children's learning through photographs and written observations. You will receive a monthly update of these observations, sent out on the last Thursday of each month.

**Birthday Fruit:** If you would like your child to celebrate their birthday, or any other special occasion with their class, we ask that you send in fruit to share rather than sweet treats. It's also really helpful if the fruit is ready prepared, thank you.

**Book Bag:** Please ensure that your child brings their book bag to school with them every day, and that you check it every evening. We will put any paper communications in your child's book bag for you. Please don't overload your child's book bag – it's for books, not jumpers, spare shoes, teddies or other paraphernalia! Your child is allowed to put one keyring on the handle to help them identify their bag. Work that your child has done in class will be put in your book bag for you to look at and then keep at home.

**Classroom Names:** We refer to each of the EYFS classroom by a name. Cygnets' are based in The Nest, Ducklings in The Pond, and Goslings in The Island. The Aqua Zone is the area where the sand, water, malleable materials and finger gym activities are. The children are free to move between all the indoor learning areas, and outside, during Learning Choices.

**EYFS:** This stands for Early Years Foundation Stage, and it's what we call our year group. We don't use the term 'Reception'. When we are talking about our classes we call them 'Early Years'.

**House Points:** At school we have four 'Houses' or teams which are all named after popular children's authors: Dahl, Lewis, Morpurgo, Rowling. The children are awarded house points for demonstrating the school values (respect, equality, determination, positivity, collaboration & friendship) and they are given a blue house token which they then put in their House's collection bag. If you happen to find any house tokens at home please return them to school! Each week the winning House is announced in assembly, and that House's colour ribbons are displayed on the House Cup for the week (this is on the shelf just inside the playground door). At various points during the year the whole school joins together for a 'House Event' where the children work in mixed age teams to compete against the other Houses.

**Learning Choices:** This is the time that children can direct their own learning, and choose what and where they want to play and explore.

**Marbles in the Jar:** This is a class reward system. If all the children work well as a team then the class is rewarded with a marble in the jar. The class has to earn ten marbles in order to obtain a class treat. This treat is usually voted on by the class and the idea with the most votes is selected.

**Milk:** Milk is provided for children who are 4 years old. For those who do not want to drink milk, or those who are older, there is always water available.

**Mystery Reader:** "It's Monday...it's ten past three...it's Mystery Reader!" Each week we have a different surprise guest to read a story to each class. This could be a parent, sibling, friend of the family or childminder. Please sign up in your child's classroom.

**Numicon:** Numicon is a resource we use for teaching children about numbers, supporting them in understanding number ideas and number relationships. Numicon has a series of structured patterns - Numicon shapes - to represent numbers, as part of a progressive teaching programme.

**Read, Write Inc.:** We teach reading and writing through a synthetic phonics approach using the Read Write Inc. resources.

**Red Words:** During the year your child is expected to learn to read a series of high frequency words by sight, with the emphasis on learning them at home. Red Words cannot be sounded out, hence they are red for 'stop'.

**School Newsletter:** There is a whole school newsletter every other Friday. This is available on the school website, and you can sign up on the website to get reminders.

**Star of the Day:** Each child will get the chance once a term to be the 'Star of the Day'. When it is your child's turn they will get to sit on a special chair during classroom carpet sessions and have jobs to do such as collecting House Tokens from the office. They will also get to be at the front of the line whenever we line up and this is a privilege that the children value the most! At the end of the day your child will then have something to do and bring in to share with the class the next day. We ask that children do not bring in things from home to show unless it is part of their Star of the Day task.