

5<sup>th</sup> September 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to Tucana Class! We are excited to begin our learning journey this year, exploring lots of new topics. Here are a few things you need to know:

### **Topics and Learning**

Our topics this year are 'Childhood', 'Faces and Features', 'Bright Lights Big City' and 'School Days'. These will be our main learning points this year, where we will be learning a lot about History and Geography through different areas of the curriculum. Alongside these we will be learning lots of new things in Art, Design and Technology, Science and Geography. Children also have regular learning of RE, Computing, Music and PSHE lessons. We will have some visitors in this term to enhance our learning about 'Childhood' and also have a museum loan box with lots of old toys to explore and learn from.

### **Reading**

Children in Tucana class change their library books every Wednesday and each book will be recorded in their reading diaries. If children do not finish their book, then they can keep it for longer. If you read with your child please write a comment in their reading record so the adults in the class know they have been reading at home. In the front of the reading diary there are some suggestions to support you when reading with your child at home. In Year 1 and 2, children build on their comprehension skills and it is important to continue this learning at home. Reading records will be checked on Mondays and Fridays, and if your child has read 3 times or more in the week, they will receive a gold star to encourage reading.

### **Spelling**

In Tucana we focus on the spelling of Common Exception Words/High Frequency Words children will need to use in their writing. These will be assigned to individual children and checked a week later. If they have learnt their spellings they will be given new words to learn. It is expected that children practise these at home and they will go home in their spellings folder with a 'look, cover, write, check' sheet for home use. We will also be learning new spelling rules in both phonics and spelling sessions during the school day.

### **Phonics**

Daily phonics sessions for all Year 1 and some Year 2 children in school will focus on certain sounds in Phase 3 and Phase 5 of phonics. It is taught in single year groups. Phonic books will be changed on Mondays by Mrs Evans. If children have read these through the week, they may be changed again by Miss Crocker on a Friday for reading at home over the weekend.

### **Water Bottles**

Please ensure that your child has a water bottle labelled with their name in school. They should take it home daily and bring it back the next day. It is helpful if it is transparent so we can monitor how much water children have drunk during the day. Please be aware, we often refill them so if the water bottle is quite full at hometime, it is likely to be a refilled bottle.

## Milk and Fruit

You can order fruit and a cup of milk at break times. Milk is 25p a day and fruit is 14p a day. This can be booked via MCAS under products. If your child wishes to bring in their own snack, please can this be in a labelled box. It needs to be a healthy snack with no nuts in please and grapes/tomatoes etc need to be sliced in half to minimise choking risk.

## Lunch

We are aware that you will have already completed the request for your child's lunch on MCAS. We will take the lunch register to confirm any changes or absences to the information we have. It would be helpful if you could remind your child what they are having for lunch each morning to prevent any child being upset when they go to the lunch hall.

## PE

Our PE days will be on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons. Children must have PE kit in school on these days. PE kits can stay in school until the end of the term, when they will be sent home. If PE kits get muddy we will send them home to be washed sooner. If your child has a sports club in the week, they will not get changed before pick up at 4pm. They will go home with their uniform in their PE bag. Please make sure this is returned in time for their next PE lesson.

## Teachers and Teaching Assistants

Ms Evans and Miss Crocker are the teachers in Tucana class and we are very lucky to have Mrs Bowen, Mrs Rabbich, and Mrs Offord as our teaching assistants. Ms Evans will be teaching from Monday to Wednesday and Miss Crocker Thursday to Friday and alternate Wednesday afternoons. Mrs Lawton will teach PE on Tuesday afternoons.

## Homeroom

Everyone should have received an invitation to Homeroom which can be downloaded as a smartphone app or used on a web browser. Please do let the office know if you have not yet received one and we will add you to it. We will be sharing information here about our learning, pictures of our work and experiences and any class notices, so it is important that parents are joined in case information is missed. Homeroom is a private app, only accessible by parents of children in the current class and staff.

We are really looking forward to a busy year of learning in Tucana Class. If you have any questions at any time, please feel free to contact me via email: [tucanahomework@stpeters.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:tucanahomework@stpeters.oxon.sch.uk) and we will respond during normal school hours. If there is anything that needs urgent attention, please contact the school office.

Many thanks,

Miss Crocker and Ms Evans