

Dear Reception Families,

Welcome to Summer Term Week Seven. It was so nice to catch up with most of you that I managed to talk to at the beginning of the week. For those of you that I missed, I will try this Monday when I am in school again.

Thank you all for your kind words. I am sad to be leaving. Your children are all incredible and you should be so proud of them and yourselves, for the way you are all coping with our 'new normal'. I will arrange something so that we have a bit of a socially distanced reunion to say goodbye before the end of the term but, as I have mentioned, I will be around in September to help support the children as they transition to Year One. You won't be getting rid of me that easily!

I know some of you have some concerns with your children moving into Year One, having had such a long time off. Many children may feel anxious about returning to school, regardless of what Year Group they are entering. Please rest assured that teachers are fully aware of this. Take heart in the fact that we are all starting at the same place, every child has been home for many weeks now. Your child's wellbeing is a top priority and support will be in place to help children to cope with the challenges they are facing, helping and supporting them as they are gradually introduced to their new class and curriculum. At home, you can start helping the transition to Year One by discussing the move in a positive way. Talk about having bigger chairs because they are too big for Reception now. Talk about how exciting it will be to see a new classroom and have a new outside area (that is currently in the middle of a very exciting makeover!). Talk about the new toys and activities they will have access to and the new topics they might learn about. If you would like to discuss your concerns or just have questions, then I will do my best to help. Just email me and I can either reply via e-mail or if you would prefer a chat then request that I give you a call. I am in school Monday and Friday this week.

This week our learning is based around another Julia Donaldson book, 'The princess and the wizard'. For each day I have also suggested an online game to support phonics or maths learning. Hopefully, you have been able to print off the red words to be able to make some games to practice them. If anybody does not have access to a printer then I am happy to print off some copies and leave them for collection in the entrance to school by Mrs. Shorto's office.

Don't forget to share your photos via e-mail (k.couriard@stpeter.sch.ie) or EExAT. That's what keeps me inspired! I look forward to speaking to you soon.

Happy Learning!