

## **Reception meeting for parents:**

**11.09.24**

**Curriculum:** In Reception we teach from the Early Years Foundation stage curriculum with a strong emphasis on Personal, social and emotional development, Communication and language and Physical development (especially fine motor skills to aide pencil grip and handwriting) which underpins all other areas of learning. Teaching is topic based as children learn best when they make connections in their learning.

Our first topic will be “Into the Woods”, where we will be learning about familiar stories (and characters) set in the woods.

Each week we send home a brief weekly ‘overview’ of the learning activities we have covered in class. This information allows you to begin a dialogue with your child about some of the activities they may have done in school. It is sent home via email on a Wednesday.

### **Termly reviews**

At the end of the Autumn and Spring terms, your child will bring home a Termly review of their learning. This replaces learning journals that you may have received from your nursery/pre-school settings. It will simply be a few photos and a quote/ comment from your child about their experiences so far. In July, you will receive an Annual School Report.

### **Reading**

One group will take it in turns to read with the teacher daily. The children will have additional reading opportunities every day, even if it is not from a book; their own names, classroom labels, games, interactive white board activities and teachers’ writing for example.

A range of reading skills including phonics, word recognition, recall and understanding of a story is also taught. Other activities focus on developing visual skills needed for reading such as observational drawing and picture/shape matching games.

Reading books should be kept in book bags all the time, so that they can be exchanged on their reading day.

## **Staff**

On Wednesday’s, Mrs Lynn will be teaching in both classes to provide music opportunities.

On a Wednesday afternoon Mrs Gore will be teaching in Wren class to cover Mrs Williams and Mrs Scott for their non-contact planning time together.

### **Bug Club**

This is an online reading resource which allows children to engage with books suitable to their reading abilities on a computer or tablet. Your child will soon be issued with a log-in username and password. This will be stuck inside the front cover of their reading record (orange booklet). This is a great resource to access more books, especially over holidays/snow days.

### **Homework:**

In Reception, children will bring home two books each week; this will be on the day they have read with an adult at reading time. One will be a reading book and the other a library book. When you read with your child, it is helpful if you could enter the title into their Reading Record, along with a simple comment. Initially some of the books will have no text to encourage storytelling, using imaginative language and discussion.

Several times each term, the children will be set a ‘Learning Log’ homework, which will have an open-ended task, related to work they have been doing in school. This will come home in an A4 red book, with a sticker explaining the task. The children can use a 2-page spread to complete their work.

### **Blog**

Reception has their own year group blog, which is updated after special events with pictures of the children’s work and activities. This can be found by navigating through the school website and we will let you know when it has been updated.

### **Notices**

Important information will **always be sent home via text/email to parents**, as we understand that not all parents will be involved in school drop offs/pickups. Please check your child’s book bag each day for the odd leaflet/letter too and

regularly de-clutter the pictures and activities your children may proudly bring home.

The school newsletter goes out on a Thursday via email.

### **Mobile phones**

In the interest of child protection, please do not use mobile phones in school and on the school grounds. This is to protect you as well as the children in our care.

### **Requests for help!**

We always need old boxes, paper, old envelopes, cards, bottle tops, shiny paper, wrapping paper...the list is endless! Look out for specific requests we may message home about.

### **Request for your co-operation**

The outdoor equipment is sometimes set up before school. Each activity has a learning intention. Please help us by keeping your children off this equipment before and after school, as we lose valuable time having to set things up again.

On PE day (Friday) children will need to arrive to school in their PE kit.

Please name all PE kit and school uniform.

Children should have suitable outdoor clothing (coats, hats, gloves) in school when the weather changes as we shall be going out in all weathers! Wellington boots can be kept at school if you wish. It is also useful to have a spare set of clothes kept in school for 'wet' accidents and messy play accidents.

Please ensure your child has a drinking bottle each day and this contains water only and is named.

Medicine: if your child requires medicine to be given at school e.g. antibiotics, then please ensure a form giving us permission and details about how to administer it, is filled in. This can be collected from the office.

### **Internet safety**

In school all access to the internet is filtered and children are told to report anything that worries them to an adult straight away. Please help to keep your child safe by ensuring safe and appropriate use of the internet/computer games at home. Mr Taylor, our Deputy head and ICT coordinator, will send home regular e-safety updates/advice on the school newsletter.

### **Independence**

Most children are already developing their independence brilliantly. Please help us by encouraging your child to come in to the classroom independently in the mornings. For Finch class this means staying on the playground, rather than coming down to the classroom door. This works well and ensures a smooth start to the day.

Lunch Choices: Please ensure you have chatted to your child about their lunch choice for the day. We will continue to display the menu before school (on Wren class window) and will support them through the process. Your child is given a red, yellow, white or green dinner band to wear on their wrist just before lunchtime. This indicates the choice they have made.

### **Problems, issues.**

We have an open door policy. If you have any concerns please speak to a member of the Reception staff. The best time is usually at the end of the school day unless it is something we need to know about in the morning.

### **Collecting your child from school.**

In the interests of safety, if you are not collecting your child from school, please let us know. It would also be helpful to know if your child will be collected by another adult regularly. We will record these messages on our clipboard to attempt to remember everything!

Please ring the school or email if the arrangements change during the day.

Thank you all for your support so far. We are really looking forward to working with you over the year.

Camilla Dummett, Ruth MacLeod (Finch)

Kayleigh Williams, Jo Scott (Wren)