



Pear Tree Welcome Letter

Wednesday, 4th September 2019



Dear parents,

Welcome to a new term and for many of you welcome to our school and to Reception class. We are very much looking forward to getting know your children over the coming days. Below is information that you should find useful regarding this term.

P.E.

P.E. will be on Thursdays and the children can leave their kit in school throughout term time on their pegs.

Topic

Our topic for this first half of the autumn term is called 'All About Me'. This is a nice introductory topic, getting to know the children; their likes and dislikes, their families and things that make them special. In Early Years we very much try to go with the children's ideas and they will be given plenty of opportunities to express these and develop them further.

Reading Books and Reading Diaries

Next week the children will be given their first books and reading diaries to take home. They will start off as picture books for the children to put their own words and ideas to, but as our learning of the letters and sounds develops, the books will focus on the particular letters that we have been looking at. We always encourage parents to read as much as possible both with and to the children. After reading with them, please record any comments inside their reading diaries so we can see whether your child is ready to move onto a new book or not. Likewise, in class we shall record comments every time we have read with them.

Letters and Sounds

The children will receive daily 'Letters and Sounds' (Phonics) lessons to support them in the early stages of their reading. This involves learning the different letters, their sounds and how to decode words by segmenting and blending the sounds that they have learnt. We will be holding a 'Parents Information' evening on **Monday 9th September at 3.20pm**, for any parents who would like to find out more about how we deliver the learning of letters and sounds and how they can best support their child when reading with them.

At the front of your child's reading diary there is information about how to support your child with their reading. The letters and sounds, high frequency words and tricky words that your child will learn in phonics are also listed in order of the phases. We have also included a 'Phonics Glossary' to support any parent unsure of the different terms we use with the children in their daily phonics lessons.

The children will also start to take home sheets each week with the letters they have learnt that week to practise at home.

Maths

We will be focusing in depth on numbers 1 - 5 this half term. This will include counting, recognition, number formation and really understanding each amount in lots of different contexts. They will also be learning about 2D shapes.

Treasure Bag

Every week one of the children in turn will be sent home with our 'Treasure Bag'. They can put inside it five 'special' things that they would like to show and tell to the class and bring it in on the Thursday to show. We encourage the children not to bring in any of their own toys to school as they may get lost or broken, but the 'Treasure Bag' gives them the opportunity to show anything special on set days.

Barnaby Bear

Every Monday (starting next week) one of the children will bring home 'Barnaby Bear'. They can have him to stay for the week and he will have his own passport inside which the children can draw a picture or stick a photo and write about where he has been.

Welly Wednesdays

Every Wednesday morning will be devoted to outdoor learning. We will either be outdoors on the school grounds or at our Forest School site. Please can you ensure your child has their wellies and outdoor clothes on these days. We do have wet weather clothes here in school which the children can borrow.

Slippers

Your child is most welcome to bring in their own slippers to keep in class for those wet and muddy days when they need to take their outdoor shoes off.

Staffing

Mrs Medina will be teaching Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursday mornings. Miss Bragg will be teaching Thursday afternoons and Mrs Scourfield on Fridays. Additionally, our teaching assistants Mrs Ruse and Miss Piggott will be supporting the children on different days throughout the week.

We very much look forward to getting to know you all as the term progresses. We hope this letter covers many of your questions, but please do not hesitate to ask either of us at any time if there are any further questions.

Many Thanks,

Mrs Medina & Mrs Scourfield

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