

We are delighted to welcome you all back to school after a challenging year and are looking forward to getting to know you all throughout the next academic year. It has been a fantastic start to the year and we are excited for the children's first full week with us. We are extremely proud of the way they have settled into school as we are sure you are too. As we will be unable to hold parent meetings in school, I will endeavor to send you updates and trainings to help you support your child's learning at home.

Phonics

Every day we will focus on a different letter and sound. It would benefit your child if you could follow this up at home, for example by identifying objects containing each of the sounds. When you see a letter on their collar, you can ask: 'what is that letter's name? What sound does it make? What action goes with the sound?'

Reading

As children demonstrate their knowledge of letters and sounds, we will provide them with individual books that they are able to read. For some children, this will mean using wordless books until they are ready to read using sounds. Children should read these books multiple times. Where needed, we will also provide sound flashcards to help your child with their letters and sounds. In addition, we will encourage children to choose a picture book, which they will not be able to read, to take home and share with an adult or sibling. We expect children to read **every day**. Children need to bring book folders into school every day in their bags.

Maths

In maths, we use a mastery approach. This means that we will focus on one number a week and ensure that children have a solid understanding of each number. Please help your child to find the amount that we are learning (if the number is 2, help your child to find two of the same).

Toileting & Water

Children can use the toilet at any time in the first term. After Christmas, children will be encouraged to wait for the toilet if they are in lesson (no more than 5 minutes). Children are able to get water whenever they like during 'choosing time'. Please provide a water bottle that is clearly labelled for them to put in our bottle box.

Clothing

Please ensure that **ALL** clothing is clearly labelled. If there is no name in the clothing, please do not be surprised when we can't find it!

Literacy

In literacy, we are learning through the story 'Where the Wild Things Are' to shape our learning. In the coming weeks, we will move on to 'Anansi The Spider'.

Wider-Provision

Children in Reception spend lots of time learning through play. This half-term there is a big focus on children's personal, social and emotional development and communication skills. We will be working hard to ensure children are settled and comfortable in their new environment and forming friendships with their peers. We aim to build your child's confidence and to develop their independence as much as possible. Please teach your children to put on their own coats and encourage them to carry their own belongings in and out of school.

Baseline

We are carrying out very simple assessments over the coming weeks to ensure we know exactly what the children already know about letters and sounds and also in their understanding and use of number. This will enable us to plan effectively to support and extend all the children in these key skills.

Timings

Lessons start at **8:45**. Please be ready to come in to school just before. Registers close at 8:55 and children who arrive after this will be registered as late. Collection is at **3:15**. Please be ready to greet your child with a smile and ask them what sound they have learnt that day!

Snack & Lunch

All children are provided with the option of having fruit and milk. All children are entitled to a free school meal, but healthy packed lunches can be brought in if you prefer.

Extra Support

Please let us know if you are entitled to income support or tax credits as this may entitle extra support for your child and the school. More information on this will follow.

Concerns & Problems

You will have seen that I am at the door every day. If you have any concerns or worries, don't wait until they become big – talk to me early so we can resolve them before they become a real problem.

We will have a fantastic year and we are very excited for our new classroom and building!

Mr Canniford