



11.9.20

Dear Parents/Carers,

A very warm welcome to you all. We hope you've all had a fantastic summer and are looking forward to starting this new school year.

Here is a taster of what will happen in class 6.

Routine of the morning:

1. The first job of the day is to wash hands, covering our hands with soap while we count to 20.
2. Then it's time to organising belongings. First, we help your child to find their peg. Here they will hang up their coat and book bag.
3. Should your child bring a packed lunch from home, we help them to place it in a cool place at the back of the classroom.
4. They place their water bottle on the tray with their healthy snack from home next to it.
5. So we know which children are in school, we ask them to find their name on a wooden noggin and place it in the basket next to the white board. From here, an adult will take the daily register.
6. Once all of these early morning jobs have been completed, the children are free to play. As they explore the room and our toys, we ask them to come individually to the wipe board to choose their dinner. As they grow in confidence, they will be able to do this on their own. Playtime lasts for about twenty minutes, before we stop and have our first story of the day.



Carpet time (group learning)

- 1 At 9.00am, we tidy our play things away to keep the carpet safe and get ready for story time, sitting together on the carpet. Story time will last for about 15 minutes. Here we encourage the children to guess what is going to happen next, to help the story progress. As the story finishes we talk about what we remember, as well sharing ideas on how the characters might be feeling. Story time is a lovely opportunity for lots of listening, talking and memory skills to be developed.

- 2 We have group time again at 11.15am. During this time, our focus is on numbers and shapes. We learn to count, read numbers and sort them by their size. We also learn to find and name shapes.
- 3 Our first afternoon session starts at 12.45pm as we come back from lunchtime play. This will be our phonics time. During phonics we learn to hear and identify sounds around us and sounds made by alphabet letters, and then by groups of letters (sh, ch, th, ai, ee, oa). This is the first step towards learning to read. We will send you some resources to use with your child as we get started.
- 4 As we get ready to come home, our final story happens at 2.20pm.

Activity time (play and learning)

When not in group time, we encourage the children to choose their own games and activities from around our learning space. This may be inside or outside. We have a wide range of resources for them to choose from, which are out and available at all times. We call this continuous provision. The adults (myself and Mrs Jennings) support the children in their play, to help them gain new knowledge, understand basic concepts, or develop new skills. We may play the games the children have created or we may lead the play with our own activities.



Helpful hints

- **Snacks:** Any loose food that is not taken home at the end of each day will be disposed of, to help keep our classroom smelling fresh. We ask that you label your child's snack, as 10 apples can all look the same!
- **Water bottles:** These should be sent each day to help your child stay hydrated, awake and ready to learn. Please can you refresh the contents each day? Only water is allowed in school.



If your child has a diagnosed medical condition that affects their fluid intake, please have a chat with one of our team so we can help in every way. At the moment with safety measures in place for Covid 19, we are not allowed to give your child a spare cup. A bottle from home is essential



- **PE:** Please make sure your child comes to school dressed in their P.E. kit (shorts, t-shirt, pumps, jogging bottoms and a jacket). Please ensure any earrings have been removed before school. On Wednesdays, we do outdoor PE and on Fridays, we enjoy indoor PE.
- **Book Bags:** Please send this to school every day and check for notes, letters and new books to share with your child. We will try to ensure that letters are only sent home on Fridays to make life easier for you. We will help your child to choose a book from our library, which they will bring home. When you have enjoyed sharing it simply return it and we will help them to select another one.
- **Wellies:** Please send a pair of labelled wellies as soon as possible, as we play outside every day, on the field and in the



meadow. The grass can be very wet from the early morning dew, which can make shiny shoes and clean socks mucky. Wellies are also required for our special **Welly Wednesday** time each week. On Wednesday afternoon, we all learn outside together. Sometimes we learn how to use and control our bodies, sometimes we try art activities, and at other times we learn about the world around us. We go outside in the rain, snow and wind. Therefore, your child will need to come to school dressed in suitable clothes, as advised by the weather forecast. As this is a special activity day, we suggest that your child does not come in their uniform, but in clothes that you don't mind getting dirty. Jogging bottoms, sweatshirts, jeans, and jumpers are best. We do ask that your child always brings a coat, as our English weather can change very quickly.



- **Uniform:** We ask that you write your child's name in each piece of uniform, including pants, vests and coats, so that lost clothing can be easily returned to your child. 21 red jumpers all look the same to us!!

Helping out

As we settle into classroom routines, we will start to send home activities. These are aimed at supporting you to help your child develop skills at their level. You can help by using these activities a few times over the week.

If you haven't done so yet, please share a bedtime story with your child as part of their bedtime routine. A relaxing bedtime story will go a long way in helping them to learn to read. In an ideal world it should be every night, but family life is not always ideal, and things happen that we can't predict. So, if you can manage 4 bedtime stories a week that is great.

Finally, a happy learning child is one that gets plenty of sleep in their own bed. A regular bedtime routine enables a child to be alert, have patience to concentrate, join in with our play, and remember new learning. If you would like some help to establish a routine please talk to one of us at the end of the day as we bring the children out. We will arrange a time that suits us both to talk in private.

We hope that you have found this letter useful. Thank you for taking the time to read it. If you have any queries, questions or concerns please do not hesitate to ask one of us at the end of the day. We are always more than willing to make the time to chat with you.

Many thanks in advance for your support,

Mrs Priest and Mrs Jennings

