

7th September 2009

Dear Parents and Carers,



Welcome to the start of a new academic year and Reception class. I hope you had an enjoyable summer. I am excited about the term ahead and getting to know the children. In this initial settling-in period small children sometimes have worries or concerns - please feel free to come and see me at the end of each day and I will be happy to answer any queries and hopefully put minds at rest. Please

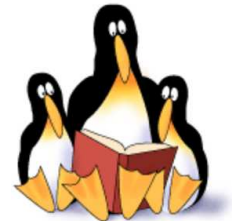


be aware that I will not be free to talk with you until I have seen each child safely to the person who collects them. I can also talk with you when the children arrive in the morning and they go to their activities.



Your child will be choosing a book from the classroom to share with you. Please share it with your child and sign your reading record book. You can change this book as often as you like, just pop into the classroom at the end of the day and choose a new one from one of our book boxes. I am looking forward to starting using the system of helping the children to read

called "Early Reading Research" (ERR for short). This will involve the children taking part in 2 sessions a day where they will learn words and sounds and apply these in a text. I will be demonstrating a lesson during this half-term so that you can see how it operates and I will also show you how you can support your child's learning with the materials we will be sending home. I will give you the details for this nearer the time.



Our topic this half-term is ourselves. We have a role-play area that is a Doctor's Surgery/Baby Clinic, which will support the children's learning about themselves, keeping clean and healthy, terms for body parts, and relationships with others. If your child would like to bring something in to add to it, such as a teddy/doll to

visit the surgery, or a magazine, leaflet or poster, please make sure it is clearly named. We will also be having a café as we will be exploring using our senses and looking into healthy eating. We will be talking about when the children were babies and how they have changed as they have grown.

Please can they bring in a photograph of when they were a baby with the name on the back and something they had as a baby, e.g. a baby grow, small toy, bottle, by Wednesday next week.



On Tuesdays we will be having news time. The children have the opportunity to tell the class about what they have done at the weekend. They can bring in something to show and tell related to what they did e.g. a feather found on a walk, a leaflet from a place visited. On Tuesday (15th September) we will be starting with a news time about the holidays.

Thursday will be our P.E time so please could the children wear clothes that are not too tricky to take off, and also no hard hair clips or jewellery! Long hair will also need to be tied back. (After half term we will also be having outdoor P.E sessions on Tuesday mornings. The children will need their outdoor P.E kit for this - trousers and a jumper, and trainers/plimsolls).

It would be so helpful if you could ensure that all of your children's clothes are named, including their P.E kit. It makes it much easier to return clothes to the correct child.

We are part of the free Fruit and Vegetable scheme, so each morning playtime the children will receive 1 piece of fruit/vegetable to eat. They will not need to bring any other food to school, apart from their packed lunch.

For the second week of term the children will be coming in to school for a shorter day starting at 9.15am and leaving at 3.00pm. From the 21st September they will be coming in for the full school day beginning at 8.50am and finishing at 3.20pm.

In the morning allow your child to put their own things away in the class to develop their independence. Also make sure your child knows if they are having a packed lunch or a school dinner so they can let us know. In the morning I have often seen it is best to leave your child swiftly rather than linger to say too long a goodbye.

Parent's evening will be later this half term; details for this will be given in Airwaves. I will put the children into their house groups after a few weeks and let you know in my next letter. Every Wednesday morning the children will be taught by Mrs Andrea Sterecki. If you have any questions or concerns about anything then please do come and speak to me, I am very happy to answer all your questions and hopefully put minds at rest.

Best Wishes

Sue Baker

Next Week - Could the children bring in some suitable brochures/catalogues for cutting and art activities.

