

Notes and messages from meet the teacher. September 2017

- Settling in – So far things are great all the children are settling in really well, learning routines quickly, making friends and having fun.
- Lunch time – getting ready and going into the hall is going really well, both Mrs Fletcher and myself are there to help them settle and try new foods. It is still early days and many of the children are eating well. Some are finding it a bit different and I am working with them to find what they like to eat. I recommend that you talk to your children about what they like so you know what to order in the future. Not only is there the option that you have chosen but a salad bar with cucumber, lettuce, carrots and pasta as well as a choice of dessert.
- School day – School starts at 8:50am where the children have time to settle in and put their things away before starting with the register and a discussion about the date and weather. Milk and snack is available all day, I am putting out little extras this week such as crackers with dairy free spread and jam to help those who are still hungry while they are getting used to the lunches. Lunch at 12:15pm with playtime outside till 1:15pm, where we will then register again for the afternoon's activities. Collection time is 3:20pm for children with no other siblings in the school and 3:30pm for children with siblings in the school.
- Welly boots, waterproofs and water bottles – Please can you make sure your children has named wellies ready for outdoors, water bottles for the classroom and a waterproof jacket/coat. We try to be outside in all weathers and will still be out at lunchtime play in light rain.
- PE kits – We will not be starting PE until the summer term so there is no need for a full PE kit yet. However if you already have it and it is in school we can use it if they get wet or have an accident.
- Library books – will be changed every Monday.
- Reading books to follow shortly.
- Base line – The base line assessments are taking place starting this week, these are a short and engaging assessment which will allow us to get a picture of your child's skills. This in turn will help to plan for each child individually for the future.
- Phonics – has already started. We constantly assess the children to ensure they are in the right group for them and they may move around from time to time, this is so that they are in the best group to help them learn their sounds.
- Phonics for parents – shortly I will be running a phonics session for parents so that you can support your child at home with their phonics and reading.
- Wish Tree – This year we will be implementing a Wish Tree. This is where I will add post it notes that have requests for small things usually consumables, such as flour, salt, washing up liquid, crackers, bread, dairy free spread, jam ect. To be used by all of the children in the class. The idea being that if you can donate something inexpensive to the class, there will be a box set up so that you can drop them off anonymously. We would be much obliged if you can help us with this as this means we can provide a more varied, fun exploration side to our curriculum.
- Consent forms – Recently we sent out consent forms for the following; Consent for photographs to be taken of your child. These are for use in the classroom,

displays, evidence of their learning for their journals and occasionally for the local papers

Off site trips – Consent for us to take your child on local (walking distance from the school) trips. Including trips to the shop, post box, or to see what is in our local area. All these trips will be risk assessed with the appropriate number of adults.

Consent for food tasting – This is a vital part of the curriculum where we introduce children to new foods via tasting secessions and cooking. We will always ensure that we will stick to any dietary requirements. I am looking to introduce a cooking secession once a week for groups of children to cook healthy recipes to share with the rest of the class.

Please come and talk to us about these if you are unsure.

- School nurse – At different times of the year the school nurse will come in to take measurements or conduct eye sight tests. We will send out a letter closer to the time to let you know what is coming up.
- Play for learning – My main ethos is one of play for learning. Children learn when they are having fun and I try to plan in activities that will engage and incite the interest of all the children.

Happy children = happy adults (parents and teachers). Children may come home saying all they have done is play! But there is a deeper level of learning there too. Though most children will come home only remembering what they had to eat!

And finally we have an open door policy, so feel free to make an appointment or pop in after school finishes at 3:30pm for a chat.

Miss Berry.