

The children have made such a fabulous start in school. They are all doing very well already and I'm really proud of them all. They are a super class and I'm excited about our year together.

Topic: Topics for our learning may be initiated by me but will more often be led by the children's interests. All themes will lend themselves to classwork based on the Early Learning Goals, for example:

- Literacy - phonics, stories, rhymes, poetry, reading, writing
- Maths - reading & writing numbers, counting, addition, shape, measures
- Understanding the World - living things, our environment, similarities, differences, patterns and change, using technology
- Expressive Arts & Design - music, art activities, dance, learning songs
- Communication and Language - listening attentively and giving an appropriate response, speaking clearly and using the correct tenses, responding to instructions
- Physical Development - good practices with regard to healthy eating and hygiene, control and co-ordination in both large and small movements
- Personal, Social and Emotional Development - confidence to try new activities, working as part of the class or in a group, showing care and respect towards others, negotiating and solving problems

In R.E. and Worship we will be talking about Hope, Harvest and, yes, after half term we will be working towards Christmas!

Literacy: We are already making good progress with phonics and learning the 'pure' sounds that letters make in words. We have started practising blending the sounds for reading and will soon be learning how to segment words into separate sounds for spelling. Your child will be bringing home a Sound Book with blending lists of sounds to practise at home. Please keep the Sound Book in the zippie when not being used. This term the children are learning how to hold a pencil effectively and how to form letters correctly in a cursive style. As you are aware your child is choosing and bringing home a book to share each day. The children have now also started to bring home a second book each day that they can read to you and will be matched to their reading ability. Thank you for taking the time to fill in the Reading Record as the information it can provide is very valuable. I would also please encourage you to let me know about any achievements your child makes out of school and I will be giving you some WOW cards to do so, which I will explain at the meeting outlined below.

Maths: This term the children will be learning to recognise and use numbers, to begin to write numbers correctly, to count reliably, to add, to compare groups of items so that they can say which has 'more' or 'less', to sort items into sets, and know some language of shape, size and length.

P.E: Our scheduled days for PE are a **Tuesday and a Thursday**. PE on a Tuesday will be with sports coaches from Premier Education and on a Thursday with me. PE will take place both indoors and outdoors and so it is useful to include some warm layers, such as jogging bottoms, for colder days. PE kits will be sent home each half term for laundering.

Wellies: We hope to spend lots of time outdoors, so please could your child have a pair of named wellies that they could keep in school. Thank you for your help with this and to those of you who have already sent in a pair.

Willow Class Information Meeting: As mentioned above I would like to hold a short Willow class information meeting on **Thursday 28th September at 3pm**. Miss Nicoll will supervise the class while we meet in the classroom and then the children will be ready to leave with you at 3.30 as normal. I would like to use this session to give a short presentation to help you with the areas I have outlined above such as correct pronunciation of phonics, blending and segmenting sounds, cursive handwriting and to introduce WOW moments. I hope that this will be useful and will then enable you to give the best support to your child.

Show and Tell: Children have the opportunity to bring special things to share (**'Show and Tell'**) on a **Monday**. Children are able to share things that they have achieved out of school or are of educational value (e.g. pictures they have drawn, something they have made, certificates they have received etc.) or topic/work related items. Please, no toys or general items.

Celebration Worship: Each Friday we hold a whole school celebration worship at 3pm in the school hall. 2 children are chosen each week to receive a certificate for either achievement or behaviour/values. You will be informed by me the week before, in good time, and you will be invited to attend the worship your child is celebrated in. Because we are very limited in space we limit the places to 2 family members only please.

Names: Please can you check/ensure that every item belonging to your child is named. Thank you.

If you have any concerns or questions, please don't hesitate to come and see me.

A reminder that the children are in school full time from **Monday 18th September** and that pick up at 3.30pm will be from the playground where I shall dismiss the children from our outdoor area gate once I see you. Please let me or the school office know if your child is being picked up by someone else.

Thank you for all of your enthusiasm and support in giving your child such a positive start,

Mrs Cath Hall