

Friday 10th September 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to the Autumn Term

The children have already had a very busy first week in Wrens, visiting different areas of the school and learning about the routines of the class. We are going to enjoy helping the children to learn many new things throughout the year and will begin by thinking about the season of Autumn. If you have anything of interest related to this topic then we would be happy to share it with the class.

We will be spending time with the children engaged in a range of adult and child-led activities to find out what they already know and the skills they need to develop throughout the year. We also know that the children learn a lot when they are at home, so next week will be sending home a set of Home Learning slips on which you can write about the experiences and activities your child is engaging in at home e.g. gardening activities, learning to ride a bike etc. to help us gain a fuller picture of your child's learning. In addition, this year all Reception classes have to complete a Baseline Assessment within the first half term of the children starting school, which we will be carrying out as short fun games with each child.

In Wrens, the children will be taught by Miss Wright and supported by Mrs Babbage (formerly Miss Smith). On Tuesday afternoons and every other Thursday the children will be taught by Mrs Green and Mrs Babbage. Every two weeks the children will have a Forest School session with Mrs Cleaver, Mrs Lafford and Mrs Babbage.

We encourage parents to support their child's learning at home, but understand that children are often busy or tired after school. The Reception children will begin by bringing home picture books and as their word reading skills develop they will also bring home flashcards and books to read aloud. The Year 1 children will continue to bring home reading books. Ideally these should be shared for 10 minutes **every** night to develop confidence and fluency when reading which in turn will support their writing skills. Please write any comments and sign your child's reading record when you have listened to them read or shared a story. Every Monday the children will also bring home a 'Home Library Book' to share. Please work together to draw a picture and write a sentence about their favourite part of the story into their red Home Library Review book. These need to be sent back into school on a Friday.

Activities which help the children to reinforce the literacy and mathematics skills they have been learning throughout the week will also be sent home in a red book on a Friday. Homework should be sent back into school by the following Wednesday.

The Year 1 children will also be bringing home a set of spellings to learn throughout the week and this book should be sent back in on Friday.

During the Autumn Term the children will be having Yoga sessions on Tuesday afternoons and PE sessions on Friday afternoons, but it is important that they have their P.E. kit in school every day. The P.E. kit should consist of:

- * **Short sleeved T – shirt** – plain white
- * **Shorts** – plain black or navy
- * **Tracksuit bottoms** – plain black or navy (for outdoor P.E.)
- * **Jumper / fleece** – plain (for outdoor P.E.)
- * **Socks** – white
- * **P.E. pumps** - suitable for physical activity inside and outside

Small stud pierced earrings can be worn but must be removed by the child or covered for all P.E. lessons.

Please ensure that your child brings in a coat to school and that they wear sensible black shoes everyday as the weather is so unpredictable. You may also like your child to have a spare pair of pants and socks in their bag just in case they have a toileting accident.

Each child has a cup and access to drinking water throughout the day but you may also like to send in a bottle filled with water.

The children can come to school dressed in their Forest School clothes for their session every other Thursday. Their first session will be on **Thursday 16th September**. Children should wear trousers and a long sleeved top and/or jumper. They will also need a pair of wellies to change into and a waterproof coat and trousers or an all-in-one waterproof suit.

We will be encouraging the children to be responsible for all of their belongings so please help them by ensuring that all belongings – each piece of uniform, school bags, Forest School kit, P.E. kit items, lunchbox and water bottles etc. are clearly named so that they can be quickly reunited with your child.

We know that children like to bring in toys to show their friends in school, however we have many toys to play with in Wrens, so we ask that toys are not brought in from home at the current time.

If your child is unwell then please phone the school office before 9.30am. If they have sickness or diarrhea they must be clear of symptoms for 48 hours before returning to school. Please remember to regularly check your child’s hair for headlice and treat if necessary. If your child has longer hair it is advisable to tie it up and this is particularly important on PE days.

If your child is being collected by someone different from normal, then please tell us in the morning or telephone the school office to let us know.

If you do not arrive to pick up your child on time, they will wait in the school library and you will be contacted. If we are unable to contact you, then we will telephone the next person on the list of people authorised to collect your child. Therefore, it is important that school are informed of any changes to contact details.

Please speak to us in the morning or at the end of the school day if you have any concerns, queries or if there is any change that may affect your child through the day e.g. unsettled sleep, change in family situations etc.

Kind Regards,

Miss Wright and Mrs Babbage

| Day of the Week | Items to bring into school |
|-----------------|---|
| Every day | Book bag, water bottle and coat. Year 1 – reading book and record. |
| Wednesday | Homework Book. |
| Thursday | Every other Thursday – come to school dressed in Forest School kit and bring in wellington boots. |
| Friday | Home Library Review Book and book. Year 1 – Spelling Book. |

