

Dear Parents / Carers  
September 2015

Firstly, we would like to say that we are thoroughly enjoying getting to know your children and finding out about the things that they enjoy. We are having fun working with the children to make their transition into Reception a comfortable and enjoyable experience. We are really impressed with how well the children are settling into their Reception class and we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support in helping to make your child's transition into full time school life a happy and positive experience.

The topic for this term is 'All about Me'. We will explore the following topics through all areas of the curriculum: About me, Family, Birthdays, My special things, My home.

Since starting school the children have been getting to know the different areas of the classroom, finding out about different resources and getting to know new peers and adults. They have been exploring moving in different ways in PE and have thoroughly enjoyed 'Wake and Shake' in the morning when they join in with dance routines to music to help wake them up and prepare them for the day ahead.

During 'Communication and Language' and 'Literacy', the children have enjoyed listening to stories about how it feels to start school. These stories have led to discussion where the children have been encouraged to share their opinions about how they feel and the things that they enjoy in and out of school. Through child initiated activities and group work, they have also had a go at writing their names and mark making. For example, when writing a label for a model they have made or a picture they have drawn. They have also been exploring the 'home corner' (the current theme for our role play area), the outside area, play dough, threading, Lego, the 'trim trail' on the playground and many more activities. For mathematics, the children have enjoyed singing number rhymes when counting using their fingers. We have also been practising counting objects by moving them and recognising and ordering numbers.

The children demonstrated excitement, as well as maturity about having their first lunch at school and all staff were impressed with their sensible behaviour (particularly when carrying their food on trays around various obstacles in the hall ☺) and good eating habits in the school hall. We were very proud of them.

#### **Dates for your diary:**

- **Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> September: 9.00am – 11.00am: Coffee Morning**

New parents coffee morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support. Invitations to follow so look out for this in their book bags. If you are able to donate any cakes or raffle prizes for this event they would be gratefully received.

- **Supporting your child's learning** at home is essential to their progress and development. We have started sending home books the children have chosen for you to share, as just ten



minutes of sharing a book everyday makes a huge difference. For further support and ideas of how to help at home, please come to the workshops....

**-Wednesday 30<sup>st</sup> September, 3.00pm in the Main hall – Characteristics of an Effective Learner**

**-Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> October, 2.30pm in the Main hall – Helping with phonics and handwriting**

**-Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October, 2.30pm in the Main hall – Helping with number**

**-Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> November (term 2), 2.30pm in the Main hall - Reading Together (with an opportunity to look at your child's Learning Diary so far)**

- **Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> October, 9.15am in the Main hall: Nursery Rhyme Challenge:** Reception children will be joined by our nursery children. A letter detailing the songs that will be sung will be sent home, please support your child by practising these with them at home.
- **Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October- Walk to School Breakfast**
- **Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October - End of term 1**
- **Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November - Start of term 2**

#### Other information/ Reminders:

- **Show and Tell:**

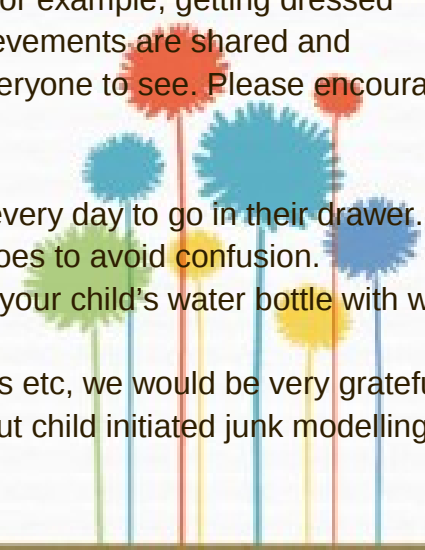
Please encourage your child not to bring any toys from home in to school on a daily basis as it causes upset if someone else wants to play with it or it goes missing. Alternatively, we will be starting 'Show and Tell' days every Friday. The first session of Show and Tell will be on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> October; we will send information about days and groupings for this in the children's book bags shortly and will display a timetable on the classroom window. Show and Tell is an opportunity for children to talk to the class and answer questions from other children about something that is special to them. For example, they can bring in a topic related item, something they have done at home or a special object. Please encourage your child to talk to you about their object at home before bringing it to school e.g. Why is it special? What can it do? Who gave it to them?

- **Wow Wall!**- In class we have a 'Wow Wall' which we hope will soon have the children's work / pictures/ certificates up on it that the children have achieved outside of school. We will also provide 'wow cards' for parents/ carers to complete when they are particularly proud of any achievement their child has made from outside of school. For example, getting dressed independently or showing a caring attitude etc. These achievements are shared and celebrated with the class before going up on the wall for everyone to see. Please encourage your child to bring in anything they are particularly proud of.

- **Some reminders for the start of the year:**

- Please encourage your child to bring in their book bag every day to go in their drawer.
- Please name everything, including water bottles and shoes to avoid confusion.
- Being a healthy school, we encourage you to please fill your child's water bottle with water only and not juice/ squash.
- Lastly! If you have any empty cereal boxes, clean bottles etc, we would be very grateful if we could have them for the children so they can carry out child initiated junk modelling.

Thank you!



- The children have already been lining up smartly after play on the playground- they are so grown up! We will start lining up every morning from **Monday 5<sup>th</sup> October**, just like the rest of the school. Our line is the yellow line at the end of the slope. Ask your child, they know where it is!

We have had a very busy and fun start to school!  
Thank you for your continued support,

Miss Hewson and Mrs Welsh