

Reception Class Newsletter September 2023

We are looking forward to spending lots of time over the next few weeks getting to know your children, helping them to settle in and making sure they are happy. We will be focusing our learning on Treasure Boxes for the first three weeks of term. Talking about the contents of their treasure boxes is a great way for the children to improve their speaking and listening skills, and it helps to build confidence too. We, the staff, find it a really good way of getting to know your children and what they like to do with you, their families.

We will also be following your children's interests in class and building their learning around this, we can't wait to see what your children want to learn about. During the day, play is child led and adult interactions support and develop children's learning. We record this learning through written observations and photographs, some of which are displayed in the classroom and on our Class Dojo page. We also create a personal learning journey book for each child which you will be able to take home at the end of the year. Alongside this, we will be asking you to contribute to your child's learning journey, by periodically asking you for information and photographs about your child's interests at home.

Phonics - we follow the Read Write Inc (RWI) phonics scheme and we will be starting to learn our Set 1 initial sounds (phonemes) from next week. When we start our sessions, children will bring a phonics book home in their book bags so you can see which sounds we are currently learning. More information on this is to follow.

Reading—your child should now have a reading book. The books your child will bring home at first will have no text in them, please spend time talking about the pictures, retelling the story in their own words and showing your child how to turn the pages carefully. Please share your child's book at least 3 times a week and write a comment in the back of your child's P.A.C.T book when you have read with your child at home.

Over the next few weeks the children will be completing the statutory **Reception baseline assessment (RBA)**. The RBA is a short, interactive and practical assessment of your child's literacy, communication, language and mathematical skills when they begin in school. You can find out more information online.

Please make sure all uniform, PE kit, water bottles and lunch boxes are clearly named so we can avoid any lost items.

Children will have the opportunity to go outside every day and in all weathers so please ensure they have a warm waterproof coat. Please don't be surprised if your child comes home dirty, this means they have been busy learning!

Please visit the school website and our Reception class Dojo page regularly to see photos and important information. A copy of letters that have been sent out are available to look at and you'll be able to see diary dates for any upcoming events. You will receive information on how to access and log onto our online platform Class Dojo www.greatwoodcommunityprimary.co.uk

For the first two or three weeks of term we will not be getting changed for PE. You can help your child enormously by getting them to practise taking their school uniform off and putting their PE kit on, and vice versa! As you will know, small buttons and turning garments the right way from inside out can be really tricky, so they will need lots of practise. Please name all PE kit and shoes and pumps as with 30 children all getting changed at once, some items do get muddled up! Thank you.

Please can all children bring a named water bottle to school each day, for those children having a packed lunch a resealable drink with this will be sufficient. These will be sent home each day for washing.