

# Welcome to Reception!

We have had a lovely first few days together and I have been absolutely delighted with how quickly everyone is settling in. Although there have been a few tears in the morning, everybody has been settled by 9am! So far the children have been working really hard to pick up new routines in addition to adapting to each new day, filled with new activities, new people and new places. I will put a few photographs on the school website so you can see us in action!

Next week will see more elements of our routine slip into place. Each morning will start with a phonics session where we spend time learning our letter sounds. This is usually followed by either a maths or literacy session. In **maths** we will be working on our number skills, such as practising counting forwards and backwards, in addition to carefully matching groups of objects to the correct numeral. **Literacy** sessions will focus on traditional tales, where we will begin with learning all about the Gingerbread Man. In these sessions we will be looking at the vocabulary from the text, sequencing the key events and even baking and tasting our very own gingerbread creations! If your child has a traditional tales story at home they are more than welcome to bring it into school for story time.



On a Wednesday afternoon we have **topic** afternoon with Miss Johnston and Class One. This provides a great opportunity for the children to take part in peer learning as well as making a few more friends! This half term, topic afternoons will be linked to the historical aspect from 'The Great Fire of London'. We will be learning about the key events of the great fire, in addition to comparing this to modern day life and fire safety. We are also expecting a visit from the local fire service towards the end of this half term.



Last week you should have received your child's **reading** wallet. Within this wallet you should have your child's reading book and their reading diary (also known as their 'monkey book'). Your child will either have received a reading book with or without words, depending on how many letter sounds they confidently know. If your child has a book without words please encourage them to identify characters or objects they can see in the pictures and allow them the opportunity to invent their own stories. This will help to develop their reading comprehension skills, which is a vital skill for understanding stories and their structure. Similarly, if your child has been given a book with words please ask a variety of questions about what they have read, in addition to what they can see in the pictures, as this too will help to develop their understanding of the story. During their time in school we will carefully monitor how many sounds your child knows and as soon as they can confidently recognise enough letter sounds and are ready to begin blending those sounds for reading then we will give them a reading book with words.

With regards to changing reading books, as mentioned in the new parent's meeting, your child's reading books will not be changed every day as it is important that they read their book more than once to develop their reading comprehension. Instead your child will be given three new books on Monday and then they will receive two new reading books on Friday, ready for the weekend.

Finally, I would like to stress the importance of reading with your child every day as this establishes a **reading routine** with your child and will help support them with

making greater progress with their reading. However, reading at home should not be a battle. If your child is reluctant to read then reading a few pages of a book is better than none at all. Once your child has read at home it is essential that you **write a comment** in your child's monkey book as this allows us to track their reading progress at home. Also please feel free to write any other comments or questions in their monkey books as this is a great way to establish home-school communication.

### **Just a few reminders...**

Outdoor P.E lessons normally take place on a Wednesday but, as we may have already said, these sessions may be moved to accommodate the weather or visiting coaches so it is important to keep a P.E kit in school all week. A P.E kit, containing both indoor and outdoor clothing, should include; a white t-shirt, black shorts, dark jogging bottoms and a jumper for if it is cold and either plimsolls or trainers, which should all be **clearly labelled to avoid getting lost**.

It would be really helpful if your child also bring a water bottle to school every day (again clearly labelled) so they can have a drink during the school day. We do have spare cups should your child forget their water bottle but it does make things a little easier if they can have their own water bottle that they can easily access.

Furthermore, your child has automatically been registered with the cool milk scheme until they turn 5. After their 5<sup>th</sup> birthday if your child would like to continue to have a carton of milk please register them at the following web address: [www.coolmilk.com/nottinghamshire](http://www.coolmilk.com/nottinghamshire).



**Show and Tell** takes place in Class R on a Tuesday afternoon and the children are invited to bring something in from home that they can share with the rest of the class. I know that many of the children would like to bring toys but I feel that it would be more beneficial if the children bring in photographs, books, souvenirs or something related to our topic as they will have more information about their objects that they can share with the class. However, children are allowed to bring **one toy** in from home to play with at playtime, if they wish to. This should be something that is small enough to fit in their tray and is not valuable in case it gets lost, damaged or broken.

On Monday afternoons, I am going to start our **parent reading afternoon** where you are invited to come into school and share a book with your child and their friends at the end of the day. If this is something you would like to do then please arrive at the main office at about 3.10 and Mrs Roper and Mrs Phillips will be able to sign you into school. The first session will start on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September and will take place every Monday after that. If for whatever reason a session has to be cancelled I will inform you all through parent mail.

Finally... Attached to this letter are four '**wow moment**' slips for you to fill in and return to school about the progress your child is making outside of school. Wow moments can be any achievement that your child is proud of and would like to share this with myself and rest of the class. Once you have returned a wow moment slip I will stick it in your child's book as a record of all of their achievements.

I know there is a lot of information to digest but please remember that you are more than welcome to come in and talk over any worries or questions you have - however small. Any member of staff is more than happy to chat and help if we can.

Thank you for all your support, Miss Tarrant