



January 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the start of the Spring term and a very Happy New Year to you all. We hope that everyone had an enjoyable Christmas holiday. Here is some information about the term ahead and some reminders.

### Uniform

It is lovely to see all the children looking so smart in their uniform. Please could you make sure that all items of clothing, including shoes and coats are clearly named. Names on jumpers do wash off or fade so if you could please check these, that would be greatly appreciated.

Please ensure your child brings a warm named coat every day to school since we spend much of our day outside.

### Reading

Thank you for reading regularly with your child. It is so important and just 5 minutes a day can make a huge difference. Please continue to read daily with your child at home as it greatly supports their confidence. Please may we remind you to write any comments in their reading record books each evening and to sign each time your child has read. Children are rewarded for regular reading through stickers on their bookmarks and a special certificate when their bookmark is complete.

The children will be continuing to take part in a daily phonics session. Before Christmas we sent home the first set of tricky words that were taught last term. As the term progresses, we will send home the next sets. Please practise these words as often as you can as we regularly assess the children's ability in order to ensure they are progressing through the reading bands accordingly. This is both a challenging and exciting term in Reception as we will be teaching digraphs in our phonics lessons, (two letters that make one sound). These are sounds such as 'ai' in rain and pain and 'ee' in seed and bleed. You will see a surprising amount of progression in your child's reading and writing in the lead up to Easter.

### School blog and Facebook

Reception have a class "blog" page where we regularly post photos and updates on what your child has been doing and learning. Please do take a look with your child and we are sure they will enjoy telling you about their learning.

### Swimming

This term the children will be going swimming. Swimming runs for a three week block. The dates are Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February, Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February and Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March. Children will be taught by professional swimming instructors. Sessions are play based and an excellent

opportunity for your child to develop their water confidence and, for those who can, their swimming technique. The children always enjoy these sessions and cannot wait to go again! Please be reassured if your child is nervous about swimming - we are used to this and we will work one to one with them if necessary, in order to build their confidence. We ask that every item of clothing is named including shoes and underwear. If you have any questions about swimming, please do not hesitate to ask.

### Sickness

Please can we remind you that if your child has sickness or diarrhoea, they need to stay at home for 48 hours after the last episode.

### Toothbrushing

We are all enjoying cleaning our teeth after our lunch and our independence has increased over time. We hope the toothbrush, toothpaste and timer we sent home have been useful.

### Tapestry

Don't forget that you are able to add observations of your child's learning from home. If you get the chance, take a photo and write a few sentences to go with it. You can include out of school activities such as swimming or dancing. We value these observations and it is lovely to see what your child is up to out of school.

### Parent communication

If you have any questions or concerns at any time, please email us.

We are all looking forward to a busy term and we thank you for your continuing support.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Claire Foin, Mrs Katie Jopson and Miss Emma Wainwright.