

Dear Parents

Welcome to Reception and your child's first year at school. Thank you very much for your hospitality during my home visits; these visits are so helpful and teach me a lot about your child and I hope that they helped with the whole process of starting school.

These past two weeks have flown by and I am happy to say that all the children appear settled and are dealing with all their new routines and tasks confidently and co-operatively.

I am still in the process of collating a base line for each child and will share this information with you at parents' evening. Based on this information, I will group the children into small work groups for numeracy and literacy activities.

Our topic this term is 'A basketful of Memories'. Thank you for preparing a 'memory bag' with your child. - the children are enjoying sharing these memories and are extremely confident, when speaking in front of each other. As a history topic, the children will be focusing on theirs and other people's memories, as they develop their understanding of the past, the changes that time brings, as well as learning about timelines.

I have looked out a selection of photos to show my own timeline and would like the children to bring in a few photos of themselves as a baby and toddler, to make their own. Please would you be able to send them in by Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September. I wondered if you as parents and perhaps the children's grandparents/great grandparents could do the same. All of your photos can be photocopied and your originals returned to you - and no, we don't have to put the dates under them!

If your parents would like to come in and talk about their timeline and childhood memories, the children and I would make them very welcome. If any of you have handprint/footprints of your children, when they were babies, could I photocopy them and would you let me know their length and weight at birth, as I would like to use the information in a Numeracy lesson.

After half term, we will be focusing on life a hundred years ago, at the turn of the century. We are trying to arrange a visit to Holdenby House,

to look at artefacts, clothes and the daily routines of life 100 years ago, comparing life then with their lives now.

As we move into December, I want to take them even further back along our class timeline, to the time when Jesus came to Bethlehem and share with them the Christmas story, ending the term with a Christmas Nativity performance.

Numeracy this term will be taught both as a whole class and in small work groups. We will be reciting numbers in order, matching numerals and quantities, counting out a given number of objects, making estimates, and where appropriate, beginning to use the language involved in adding. We will begin to use mathematical names to describe 2D shapes and mathematical language to describe them. Using our 'baby' information, we will also compare length and weight.

We will start our phonic sessions this week, following a program called Read, Write, Inc. I would like to invite you to an evening meeting, where I will explain how we teach reading and writing in the classroom. If you can not make the meeting, I will arrange a mutually convenient time with you and go through everything after school. The meeting will be held in school at 7pm on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> October.

PE will be weekly on a Tuesday morning, taught by a peripatetic teacher, during my non contact time. It will also be taught fortnightly on a Monday afternoon. Please would you keep your child's PE kit in school and would you be kind enough to put some spare underwear in the bag, just in case of accidents.

Every morning, the children will have access to the snack table. Mrs Nichols keeps us supplied with a lovely selection of breads and other healthy and tasty food to try. We do ask for a voluntary contribution towards the cost of this: £1 per week. Please could I ask you for £7 towards the cost this term. Fruit is available throughout the day and please would you provide your child with a water bottle, so that they can have a drink whenever they need one.

Could I also ask you to keep a coat at school, as the weather is about to become more temperamental and the children will always go outside to play, unless it's pouring!

As you come into the classroom, you may have noticed the mantle piece clocks on the left. Subtly linked to the topic, this is our home/school link board. If your child achieves something new at home, please get them to tell us, show their certificate or trophy or whatever it might be and we will write it on the clock to celebrate their success.

If there is anything you want to know about the Foundation Stage/Reception year, or if you are anxious or confused about anything, please come and see me any time after school or ring me if you can not get in that particular day. If you are settled and happy about school, then your child will follow suit.

Please fill in the reply slip below and let me know if you will be able to attend our evening meeting.

Once again, welcome to Reception.

Sally Wharton

I am/ we are able to attend the Read, Write Inc. meeting on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> October at 7pm.

Signed

Child's name