

Dear Parents/Carers

As we reach the last week of the induction process for the Reception class, we would like to say again how impressed we are with all the children. They have adapted to the new routines with confidence, and many of the adults in school have commented on their good behaviour. The children have enjoyed building relationships with their buddies, who have been a great help in settling them. At lunch times we have noticed how many of the children are already proficient at using a knife and fork, and our first PE session was a great success, with only a little help needed to undo tricky buttons and buckles. What a great start to the year!

Phonics

This week we have begun our phonics lessons in which the children will learn to recognise the letters of the alphabet and their corresponding sounds. We will start by learning the letters **s a t p**. Each week your child will bring home a book which contains each of the new sounds that have been taught; you can support your child by helping them to practising these sounds. We will send some suggestions of how to do this along with their book.

Reading

It has been good to hear the children talking about the stories they have enjoyed at home. Once the class are in full-time, we will begin sending home books from the school reading scheme, along with a Reading Record book. The first books your child brings home will be wordless; please look at the pictures with your child and encourage them to tell the story using the pictures to help. Now is an excellent time to begin a reading-at-home routine that will continue throughout your child's life. We recommend that children read at least 5 times per week, which at this stage can include sharing a bedtime story and talking about it together.

Maths

We have a daily, whole-class maths session which currently focuses on counting accurately and thinking about numbers that are '1-more' and '1-less'. You can support your child at home by using everyday opportunities to count and recognise numbers.

Forest Skills

Once the children are in full-time, they will be visiting the woodland weekly on a Wednesday; please ensure they have their named wellies and waterproofs each week.

Uniform

Just a reminder, that when children change for PE, they will be removing all their uniform, including for girls, tights. It really helps if *all* the items they are wearing have some kind of identifying mark, even if it's just their name written in biro on the label.

Healthy choices

We encourage children to make healthy choices. Please support us in doing this by putting only water in drinking bottles, and if you wish to send a snack, please ensure it is fruit-based, or a savoury cracker. Fruit is available daily for all children.

If there's anything you'd like to ask us about, please catch us before or after school for a chat or to arrange an appointment.

Thankyou for your continued support,

Miss Streatfield, Mrs Welsby and Mrs Musty