



23<sup>rd</sup> April 2021

Dear Parents,

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you all for the support you have given your child with their learning so far this school year. Last term was very challenging for you and for the children but we are very proud of how well they all coped and continued with their learning. We were also very encouraged by how well they all returned to school, slipping back into routines and playing with friends.

As we look ahead to the last stage in this school year I would like to reiterate the importance of reading with your child. It is so important to listen to your child read and talk to them about what they have been learning but it is equally as important to read to them. As well as an enjoyable experience for them, which helps them to develop a love of reading, it also helps them to learn new vocabulary and comprehension skills. As a school we do ask that children are read with 5 times a week and that a record is made in the reading records. This helps us to keep a track of what they are reading and how they are doing outside of the classroom. We understand that sometimes it can be hard to remember or find time but just a quick note or even just a signature really helps us.

We also ask that the children bring into school their phonics reading book and reading record everyday as we work through all the children each week ensuring that they are all read with at least once a week.

Classroom 'bubbles' will continue in the same way this term with Buccaneers spending the majority of their time in the classroom, spending only lunchtime in school hall for half an hour. They will continue to sit in their class bubble as they have been doing so far. The children will still be choosing their lunch option during morning registration so please do talk to your child about what they might like for lunch before arriving in the morning.

Our class start/finish time remains 8.30/3.05. Thank you for arriving promptly each morning and afternoon as this really helps us to maintain social distancing on the playground.

### Morning snack

We do ask that the children bring in their own snack for morning break time. To help promote healthy eating, this needs to be fruit or vegetables and any snack pots needs to be named. Please also send your child in with a named bottle filled with clean fresh water each morning. Children will also be offered milk (free if under 5). In the afternoon the children can have a piece of fruit or vegetable for snack time, this is supplied to the school for all Foundation children.

### PE and Forest School

On Monday afternoons the children will be continuing with Forest School with Mrs Rae. For this day, the children do not need to wear their main school uniform to school. They must wear suitable clothing for Forest School. They need to have their arms and legs covered for full protection. School jumpers need to be worn to school. When in Forest School, they will need full waterproofs and wellington boots. We do appear to have a few extra wellington boots, if you think your child has more than one pair in school please do ask to have a look and you can take a pair home. Wellington boots will remain at school as we like to use our garden in all weathers so they will need them all week and not just for Forest School. Sometimes the children do get a bit wet and muddy playing outside, it is helpful if the children have some spare clothes with them or an all in one waterproofs in their bag. We do have some spare all in one waterproof suits for when the weather is very wet but not enough for every child. If you have any you would be willing to donate that would be much appreciated.



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On Thursday afternoons we will be going onto the main playground for our outdoor PE session. Like on Mondays, the children do not need to wear their main school uniform. Please can they arrive in the morning wearing their PE kit, they will need jogging bottoms or leggings and suitable trainers for outdoor use. They will still need to wear their school jumper with a white t-shirt underneath. This term the children will be learning ball skills in our PE lessons.

### Attendance

We recognise that at the moment there may be times when your child cannot attend school but where possible it is important that your child attends regularly. Our target is 95% because it has been proven that children who attend less than this can suffer damage to their education. 95% attendance is still the equivalent of 2 weeks missed learning over the year. Children who attend fewer than 90% of sessions can find this having a serious impact on their learning, this is equivalent of 4 weeks missed learning, or 100 missed lessons over the year.

### Spring into life!

This term the children will be learning all about Spring, starting with the life cycle of frogs and butterflies and then going on a Spring walk to see if they can spot any signs of Spring. The children will also be spending time learning about plants and then planting different vegetables to grow in our garden. In Maths the children will be starting to learn about numbers over 10, comparing them and learning how to halve and double numbers. During their play they will also be learning to recognise different coins and we will starting to talk about how we use numbers when we think about time. If you are able to talk to you your child about time, how long or short something takes or what time they have tea, go to bed etc that would be great. Also using coins, for example, collecting pennies and counting them or counting pocket money. This is especially important at the moment when we are using less cash and children are less used to seeing coins being used.

As always if you have any questions or concerns please do come and see me.

Yours Sincerely,

Mrs Lucy Johnson