



11<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Brize Norton Primary School! It has been so lovely to welcome all the children to our Foundation class. Thank you for your support in leaving the children by the gate and not coming into the class with them in the mornings. I know how hard that can be but the children have all coped very well.

This letter is to inform you about what happens during the week and what your child needs to bring into school with them each day. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to ask at an appropriate time. If I am not available then you can talk to our wonderful Teaching Assistants, Miss Hill (mornings) or Mrs Mulcahy (afternoons).

During your child's Foundation year they will learn mainly through play and independent exploration. They will however have short learning sessions on the carpet for phonics, literacy and maths. These sessions are then followed up with focused activities with an adult. Activities that are set up for the children to play with independently are usually linked to current class topic which is All About Me this term. We will be looking at what makes us special and how we learn through trying new things.

There are a lot of changes to the way school is running at the moment; each class has to remain in their own 'bubbles'. However, in the Buccaneer class children will not notice much of these changes as we tend to stay in our classroom and garden anyway. At the moment the only time the children will go into the main school building is for lunch, where they will be sat in their class 'bubble' to eat either their hot dinner or packed lunch. Children choose which dinner they would like during morning registration, it would be really helpful if you could talk to your child about what they might like for lunch before they arrive in the morning. This would just help them as they learn the new routines of school life.

As you are aware our class start time is 8.30am, I would ask that you arrive promptly as this really helps with our staggered start times and getting the children in class before the next class starts.

### 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 doing 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, but please bring another jumper for warmth. When in Forest School, they will need full waterproofs and wellington boots. And as they go onto the grounds during any weather, they need to be wrapped up warm too!

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.

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.

## Reading

In the next couple of weeks your child will be given 2 reading records as well as a phonics reading book and a story book to share with your child. Reading diaries will be sent home every Friday and need to be returned every Friday. Whilst one reading record stays at school to 'quarantine', you will have the other one to record any reading your child has done or books you have read with them. This avoids bacterial transfer and follows current government guidelines. Any books borrowed from school will remain untouched in the class for 48 hours, before being used again. More details about phonics and reading with your child will sent out in another letter.

## Attendance

At the start of this new school year, we would like to remind you of the importance of your child's regular attendance. 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 leaning, or 100 missed lessons over the year.

Thank you so much for taking the time to read this letter. I look forward to working with you this year in promoting your child's happiness and supporting their education and learning.

Yours Sincerely,

Mrs Lucy Johnson

