



Dear Parents,

Happy New Year! I hope you all had a lovely Christmas.

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you all for the support you have given your child with their learning since September. We are very proud of how well they have all done and coped with starting school and learning new routines.

As we look ahead to the new year I would like to iterate 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. Please also continue to share pictures via Evidence Me for our word of the week discussions. This worked so well last term and the children really started using the words each week in their story telling and even their independent play. A new word will be posted on our website each week and will be linked to the current theme in class.

Information about what the children will be learning this term can be found on the curriculum overview on our class page.

#### 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). If your child is over 5 and would like milk please speak to the office about how to order and pay for milk. 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 **Tuesday** 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. Please also ensure that they also have hats and gloves, especially if the weather is very cold.

On Monday afternoons we will be continuing with our indoor PE sessions. Please make sure your child has their PE kit in school each week. This consists of a white t-shirt, navy shorts or joggers and some trainers. 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 waterproof 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 lovely.



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.

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

Yours Sincerely,

Mrs Lucy Johnson