



11th September 2020

Dear Parents,

Welcome back after such a long break! Welcome to the Hercules class! Who would have thought that when we said goodbye to you back in March, we would only be welcoming you back to school now, in September! I hope you have all been staying safe and well. Learning lots at home, whilst having lots of family fun times too.

The main point of this letter today is to inform you all about a few things to help the year run as smoothly as possible. But if you ever have any concerns or questions, please do ask at an appropriate time. If I am unavailable then please ask our lovely teaching assistants Mrs Kearvell or Mrs Edmunds. I will be the class teacher every Thursday and Friday throughout the school year. Mrs Conner will be the class teacher on a Monday all day and a Tuesday and Wednesday morning. She will return after her maternity leave finishes in October. So before then I will be covering her days. Mrs Rae will be taking the class for Forest school on a Tuesday afternoon and for PE on a Wednesday afternoon. We will all be working and communicating together to ensure the class runs smoothly and the children are in a safe and fun learning environment.

Our class is made up of half of the year 2 children and all of the current year 3 children. Initially we are learning in the classroom that is just off of the hall space. But then come early October we are very lucky that we are going to be the first class who are going to use the new building which will be situated on the play ground. This is a very exciting time for the whole school, especially our Hercules class.

School may seem a little different for the time being. We will be spending all our time in our own class bubble. Learning together, playing together and eating together. This will reduce the contact with others and hopefully avoid the spread of any unwanted germs. We ask that if your child is feeling at all unwell during these uncertain times that you are mindful and think of others. Please do not take any risks to harm others. For the foreseeable future we will not be having whole school assemblies. We will however be having class assemblies. Within these assemblies we will continue exploring the whole school 'SHINE' ethos (Strive, Help, Inspire, Nurture and Excel). This term we will be looking at the Water Cycle within our Geography work, and magnets and forces in our Science work.

Early Morning Activities

At the moment, we have a staggered start and end time throughout the whole school to avoid a build up of people on the school grounds. Our class opens at 8.40 and finishes at 3.15. Can I please ask you to be prompt on arrival and collection to help with the flow of



the school, and to avoid missing any learning within the classroom. Every morning the children will need to put all their belongings away and then begin their morning activities straight away. This will consist of spellings, reading, and maths tasks linked to their current learning.

Snack Time

Every morning during break time, the children can have a snack. To help promote our schools healthy eating policy we ask that they bring fruit or vegetables only. Please can all grapes and cherry tomatoes be cut in half correctly to avoid choking. Please provide your child with a named water bottle that is brought in daily with fresh clean water. Please make sure that it is filled with water only, not any juice or squash.

PE

This term our regular weekly PE session will take place on a Wednesday afternoon. We are currently asking all children to come to school on their PE day in full PE kit, and their school sweatshirt.

Forest School

Every Tuesday afternoon for this term, the Hercules class 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 for the afternoons activities. When in forest school, they will need full waterproofs and wellington boots. And as they go onto the grounds during any weather situation, they need to be wrapped up warm too!

Wellington Boots

Due to current situations, the children within the school will be having staggered playtimes with their bubbles. To utilise our full open space, different bubbles will use the story garden located at the side of the school at given times. This area can become very muddy, so we are asking every child to bring in a pair of wellies in a named waterproof bag to stay in school at all times.

Homework and Reading

We ask that the children read 5 times a week for 10-15 minutes each time. Every child has a reading diary to record their own reading achievements. Please encourage your child to write a comment of their own in these books.



Reading diaries will be sent home every Friday and need to be returned every Friday. Each child will have two reading diaries. This means they can be used on alternative weeks to avoid bacterial transfer, following current government guidelines. Reading books can still be borrowed from school, but on return they must stay untouched in the class for 48 hours, before being used again. Can I remind you at this point about the fantastic online resource of the Oxford Owl. There are many books available to read in their free e-library.

Every Friday the children will receive 10 spellings. These will be tested every Friday, so please encourage your child to learn them. In order to help them learn, we will be sending different activities to be completed to work alongside these spellings. As well as spelling homework, all children will have additional maths, times tables and topic homework to reinforce school work. All homework will be handed out on a Monday and needs to be completed by the Friday. Please assist and encourage your child to complete all the work given.

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 learning, or 100 missed lessons over the year.

Timetable

Monday	Literacy	B	S	Maths	L	Science and Computing
Tuesday	Literacy	R	N	Maths	U	Forest school
Wednesday	Literacy	E	A	Maths	N	PE
Thursday	Literacy	A	C	Italian	C	Maths and PSHE
Friday	Literacy	K	K	Maths	H	Music / RE and History

Thank you so much for taking the time to read this letter. I hope you are in agreement that we are in a partnership to promote your child's happiness and support their education and learning. I look forward to working with you and your child during the year ahead.

Yours sincerely,



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