



Head Teacher: **Mr Chris Tofallis**

16 October 2019

Dear Parents/Carers,

We would like to thank you for your continued support this half term as well as attending our Curriculum Evening last week. Below we have highlighted some of the information that was shared, in order to help you prepare for the next half term.

What to expect after Half Term:

Reading Books and Reading Record- At this early stage, we are encouraging the children to handle books and retell stories, ensuring that reading is a positive experience. It is important at this stage that children enjoy reading. This will support them in the future when they are expected to read and write. The children will take home a reading book and a reading record book. They will get a new reading book every Monday or Tuesday. Many of the books the children will take home at first will have simple repeated words. We will listen to the children each week and move them to different colour bands when we feel the children are ready. Children need to be able to read the words and answer questions related to what they have read before they are moved on. Please read daily with your child and make a note of this in their reading record book. We have attached an example of the kind of things you can look out for and record when reading with your child. Feel free to record any other books your child has enjoyed reading too. Our new sounds and 'Tricky Words' will also be recorded weekly into the children's reading record books.

Please ensure your child's reading record book, as well as reading book, is in their book bag every day, as we will dip into these throughout the week.

Homework- Homework will be sent out in a Homework folder every Friday. It is due in on the following Wednesday. Please feel free to hand it in before this if it is completed early. The homework will consist of a simple Maths activity to consolidate our learning from the week. It will also give you more of an insight into what has been taught in Maths that week. Please make sure homework is completed in pencil.

PE- PE lessons will take place every Wednesday morning. We will now be sending PE kits home so that children can arrive to school dressed in their PE kit for the day. We have decided to make this change as we feel it will allow the children more time to be physical as at the moment we are using up a lot of our allocated PE time to get ourselves dressed and ready.

Focus Week - We focus on 3 children each week to observe their play, collect information about their interests, development and characteristics of their learning. We will inform you in advance and then invite you in at the end of their focus week to discuss their progress. This will be a chance for you to tell us about any development and learning you have seen at home, as well as for us to share our observations with you.

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Please return the completed letter as this will be added to your child's Wow Book to mark the start of their Focus Week.

Star of the week - Every Friday each class will select a Star of The Week. Examples of why children are chosen as Star of the Week include: excellent behaviour, kindness, perseverance, working hard and so on. The Star of the Week will take home a soft toy (Gerry Giraffe) and diary. Please help your child draw a picture and write about something they do with the toy over the weekend. You can also put photos in if you wish to. Please encourage them to draw and write independently. If needed you can then write underneath. Please return it on the Monday so that your child can share the diary with the rest of the class.

Show and Tell- Show and Tell has in fact already started in our Reception classes. It takes place on a Monday, just before the children are dismissed at home time. The children are encouraged to bring something in from home that is special to them. They will then stand in front of their class and talk about why this particular item (eg toy, map, photograph, souvenir, DIY project, book etc) is special to them. The class is encouraged to listen carefully and then ask questions.

We wish you all a lovely half term break and thank you once again.

The Reception Team

Mrs Zannetta Pavlakos
Early Years Leader