



Dear Parents/Carers,

Firstly, thank you for your support so far this term. It has been wonderful to be at school altogether as a new team in the Nest! Now that we are settled into the new school year, I would like to share some important information regarding this half term at school. We are very lucky to have Mrs Bush and Mrs Sadler as our class teaching assistants and the wonderful Miss Stammers as our apprentice teaching assistant this year.

Teaching and Learning

Our topic this term is all about animals! We will be learning lots of interesting facts about animals including humans, and will focus on using drawing, painting and sculpture to develop and share ideas. Our key enquiry question is: "Is it our planet or theirs?" The children will be exploring different ways to help the environment and all the creatures that share our planet, also learning about caring for pets and animal conservation - please see the autumn overview for more information.

Class Dojo and Tapestry

We will use Class Dojo to share our learning throughout the week as well as any important information you may need. Staff are available to contact through Class Dojo as well as email but please ensure any changes to going home arrangements or urgent messages go through the office. Tapestry will be used throughout the year as our online learning journal for the children in Reception. We are delighted to see so many lovely comments from some of you already on Tapestry! It's a wonderful platform and can also be used by parents at home to upload photos of what the children get up to. Your contributions will enable us to add to the children's learning journeys and their Early Years profiles. If you are yet to activate your account and would like some support, please just send me an email.

Reading

The children have started to bring picture books home but will also be visiting our incredible library next week to choose a book to share with you at home. Please write any comments regarding your child's reading you wish to share with us in your child's reading diary. We will change the children's books when they have been shared/read at home. Once we feel the Reception children are ready to start reading phonetic books, we will send one home too. You may wish to keep books a little longer so that the children can become more confident with their reading. The Year 1 children will continue to work through their coloured book bands and will be encouraged to change their books independently and regularly.

We share stories every day and read with the children multiple times a week. They have lots of other opportunities to read at school including shared reading and paired reading with members of children from other classes. Our current shared reading slot is with year 6 on a Wednesday morning.

SMART packs

Before October half term, we will update the children's SMART packs and will ensure they have copies of their phonics phases and sounds to practice, magical maths statements and high frequency words to learn at home. We will send home an update of their progress for your

reference. I will explain this in more detail nearer the time via Class Dojo. Please can you ensure children keep their SMART pack in their bookbag so that we can access them in school. Year 1 already have their high frequency word books and we will be checking their spellings and magical maths soon.

Snack

Just a reminder that any snacks brought into school should be healthy (fruit or bread based) and must not contain any nuts. Fruit and vegetables are available to the children daily as well as milk and water. Milk is available to the children for free until their 5th birthday. If you wish for your child to drink milk at school after their 5th birthday, please contact Mrs Scott in the office for this to be arranged.

Don't forget, if you ever have any problems or queries, please feel free to pop in and see us at any time.

Miss Wilson and all the team ☺

lwilson@greateaston.essex.sch.uk