



Aim High, Fly High

11th September 2020

Dear parents/carers

I hope you have had a lovely Summer – it has been a busy one here at school preparing the new classes for Early Years and Key Stage 1. Over the next few weeks Finches' classroom will continue to evolve into an inspiring and motivating space to learn in.

Yesterday and today have been great fun; all the children coped really well given the recent events over the past 6 months. I have enjoyed meeting all my Finches and I am really looking forward to teaching them for the rest of the year.

Following the sad events of the fire, this first half term, I will be focusing on settling them in, reducing any worries they may have and starting them on a positive learning journey in Year 2.

The first half of this term we will be having some fun with our History topic 'Toys'. The children will be learning about how toys have changed over the last 100 years or so. They will be designing and making their own toys as well as, in English, reading 'Toys in Space' and 'Traction Man' both by Mini Grey. In Science, the children will learn about Plants and maybe even attempt to grow some!

The second half term our topic asks the question – 'Who's afraid of the dark?'. We will be learning about Thomas Edison in History, seasonal changes in Geography and reading 'The Dark' by Lemony Snicket and 'Orion and the Dark' by Emma Yarlett in English. In Science, the children will be learning about living things which follows on from our learning of plants in the first half of the term.

Most of Finches core subject learning (Maths, Writing, Reading) will take place in the morning session and Phonics will be taught straight after lunch. This means that the children need to start the day fresh and ready to learn so it is important that your Finch has had a good night's sleep and a hearty breakfast.

This term P.E. will be on Tuesdays and will be outside PE only. Please ensure that your child has appropriate P.E. kit (plain white T-shirt, shorts or jogging trousers, sweatshirt and suitable footwear for outside activities). Please also be aware that, for health and safety reasons, earrings must be removed for P.E. Due to the situation with Covid 19 children will not be able to change for PE sessions in school and so will be expected to wear kit to school on a Tuesday. Children will also run the daily mile each day and will have an outdoor learning session every week (these sessions will start in the next few weeks). For this reason, we request children wear trainers or robust shoes with their uniform for the rest of the week.

KS1 Children are entitled to a free healthy snack every day but they are also welcome to bring their own fruit or vegetable snack for morning playtime. We encourage children to bring a named bottle of water to drink during the day; this will be returned for washing every evening. Children are also required to bring their own hand sanitizer and tissues. To carry these items, children may bring a **small bag** to school each day. Please remember we do not currently have access to the cloakrooms so the children must be able to hang this small bag on the back of their chair inside the classroom. If children choose a packed lunch they should bring that too.

Finches' Topic homework will be put on Starz and emailed out at the start of every half term. Spellings / Phonics will be on Starz weekly. Children are expected to complete their Reading, Spelling and Maths homework each week. The Topic activities are optional. If your child chooses to complete these they can be uploaded onto Starz. We will have a spelling / phonics quiz each Friday.

If you have any questions, worries or concerns, I am always available to chat with you in person or by phone. You can request a meeting by contacting the office.

I am looking forward to meeting you all in due course and working with your child.

Kind regards

Mrs Frere