



## **Buttercup class Newsletter**

**Autumn 1**

### **WELCOME TO RECEPTION**

Dear Parents/carers,

Welcome to Reception and life at Duxford Primary School. We are very excited to be working with you and your children over the next year and I know we are all going to have a fantastic time.

#### **'Meet the Teacher' and Phonics information sessions**

The Reception 'meet the teacher' session will be held on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September. This is an opportunity for you to find out more about the early years curriculum, how the learning is structured in Buttercups, as well as the class routines and other important information. There will also be time after the presentation to look around the classroom and ask questions. It would be great to see you there.

A phonics workshop for Reception parents will also be delivered on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September at 6pm. This is a valuable session that talks about the progression of Phonics in Reception as well as providing you with ways you can support your child's reading and writing at home.

#### **School dinners**

Every children is entitled to a free school dinner up to Year 2. There are three dinner choice selections red (meat option), green (vegetarian), and blue (salad option). The children will select their colour choice from the photo menu card during class registration time. Mrs Rigby will then give the children their coloured dinner band in the hall just before they line up for their dinner.

You can access the menu for the school lunches at:

<http://www.cambridgeshireccs.co.uk/page/school-meals/primRY>

The upcoming lunches for the week are also recorded at the bottom of every Airwaves update. Airwaves is a 'whole school' weekly update that is emailed out every Friday. You can also access copies of the newsletter on the school website too.



#### **Tapestry and Wow cards**

Accounts have been set up for all email addresses that were submitted on the Tapestry permission forms. An activation email has been sent to you by Tapestry. You can use the link in the email to activate your account and set your own password. Photos from observations of your children as well as information on our learning in class will be loaded on here for you to see. If you have any problems logging on initially, please speak to me and I will try and reset the password for you.

To help us gain a better understanding of your child it would be wonderful if you could load photos of your child's achievements at home. We can also use these photos to let the rest of the children in the class see and it is a great opportunity for the children to share experiences together too.

You could fill in a Wow card to document your child's achievements at home if you would prefer. I will read these out with the child and ask them questions. They are then proudly displayed for a term outside the classroom on the Wow board before being added to their learning journey file. These moments could be from their play, family events, interests or sporting activities outside of school. I will explain this in more detail during the 'meet the teacher' session.

#### **Buddies**

The children will be paired up with a child from year 6. The children will work with their Year 6 buddy every Friday afternoon between 2.45pm and 3.10pm. The Year 6 will also help Reception in the dinner hall and look out for them on the playground. Their buddy will also be in the same house. Reception will first meet their buddy on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September. We are holding a special buddy time afternoon with activities centred on the book titled 'The Dot' by Peter Reynolds. You will be given a slip on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September detailing which house your child is in. There are four houses- Hurricanes, Spitfires, Concorde and Lancasters.

#### **Uniform**

Please could you ensure that all your child's clothing is labelled clearly. Please keep an eye on this as often the label will wear off in the wash as the year progresses. This makes it difficult to identify who the misplaced item of clothing belongs to. As the weather becomes colder, please could you ensure your child comes in a warm coat, with hats and gloves if necessary. Please could they also bring a labelled pair of wellingtons so your child has appropriate footwear when we use the outdoor learning environment and garden.

#### **Morning routines**

Your child will have their own peg to store their coat, jumper, gloves and hats on. Please could you encourage your child to independently put their coats and PE bags on their pegs and book bags in the book box. This helps to develop independence skills and helps the children start to take responsibility for their belongings.

You are welcome to help settle your child in the morning with their morning activities for five minutes but then we would appreciate if you could leave through the side door rather than lingering around or talking to other parents so we can efficiently complete the morning register and lock the playground gate.

#### **Our learning**



This half term we will have a large focus on learning the names of our new friends, finding out about our interests, families and learning about our new classroom, routines and people who help us in school. After this we will move into the dinosaur topic and there are many engaging activities planned. We will also think about sharing and taking turns as well as developing our speaking and listening skills.

The children will have two PE sessions per week. This half term we will be learning how to change for PE (please could you encourage your child to dress independently at home to help us with this), finding a space, travelling, multi-skills and will also complete a dance unit.

A topic web for the first half of the Autumn Term will be given out at the 'meet the teacher' session. Wherever possible the topic is linked to the adult led activities. However, within the ethos of Early Years education, the lessons and outcomes will be adapted to support the children's learning needs and interests. The topic web details a broad overview of the adult led teaching activities your child will experience in the seven key learning areas of the Early Years Foundation Curriculum. Adult led activities supplement the whole class teaching session, the children will work individually or in small groups. This allows the children to be taught at their required level and informs planning for their next steps.

Child initiated learning forms a major part of the day. This area of the curriculum allows the children to extend their learning and apply their skills in opened ended activities. Whilst instigated by the children, the adults will extend the learning through questioning and direction, moving the learning onto the next step. Evidence of these activities will be collected through photographs and written observations which form part of the child's learning journey.

We are hoping to also investigate these other topics this year-Fire/fire, once upon a time, castles/knights/dragons, jungle adventures and marvellous minibeasts.

#### **Parent helpers**

If you have a spare hour or two occasionally or on a more regular basis during the week and would be interested in volunteering in Buttercup class we would be very appreciative of any support. There are a variety of things parents can help with from displays, making resources, reading with children, art activities, cooking and working with small groups. It's a great chance for you to see what life is like in the Reception classroom and the children always love having visitors in. Or if you feel you have expertise in a particular area that would link with any of the topics above, please let me know too. To allow the children to settle into school, we usually start parent helpers after October half term.

If you have any queries, questions or concerns please do not hesitate to talk to us. Once again we would like to warmly welcome you and your child to Buttercup class.

Kindest regards  
Miss Kerr