



Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to the new half term! Last half term was a fun, action packed first few weeks at school. We are especially impressed with how confidently the children are coming into school in the morning and we would like to thank you all for your positive encouragement with this. The children are also much more familiar with our school routines now and are accessing their Early Years Environment with a growing independence. They are having great fun getting to know one another and playing together at school. We have been spending lots of time with your children in the provision encouraging and supporting them to develop their social skills. The children are all at different stages with these skills and in managing their emotions. We have noticed some children are still reacting in the moment with a more physical response and we are working with them to develop this. We have been helping them with positive ways to solve problems and negotiate with their peers. Below are some of the strategies and language we are using to tackle this with the children:

- We have taught the children to use the word **'stop'** if someone is doing something they don't like. We have explained to them that this is a powerful word and if we hear it we must stop what we are doing right away.
- We have then explained that if they have tried using the word 'stop' and it hasn't worked the children now need to come and **ask a grown-up** for some help.
- We encourage the children to talk and **listen** to one another about their feelings rather than use a physical response. We use the phrase **"please use your words"** with them. We have talked to the children about how we show we are listening to someone e.g. good looking eyes, listening ears on, lips closed and not talking at the same time as someone else.
- We have shown them how to **take turns, share toys** and how they can use a sand timer to help with this if they are finding it tricky.
- We ask that you please reinforce the above skills with your child at home to help develop these early social skills. In school we are really reinforcing these skills through the use of our token system. The children each have a little 'treasure box' and they can earn tokens to collect in it by displaying positive social skills and learning behaviours. At the end of the week we count our tokens and the children can earn a special privilege at school.

Drop off and collection

We would like to thank you for your patience at the start and end of the school day. We do appreciate it can be a long wait for some of you. We politely ask that you ensure you join the end of the line on arrival as some parents may have already been waiting there for a while. Thank you for your understanding with this.

Polite Reminders

- Please ensure **all belongings** are **named**. The children don't always recognise their own belongings and it is then very difficult to ensure it get backs to the right person. Usually if everything is named it has a good chance of being returned to you.
- Please ensure your child brings their **drinks bottle** to school every day. Your child will need their own bottle for their lunch time drink in the hall.

- We have noticed that there are a number of children without a lunch ordered for them in the mornings. Please ensure you have **ordered your child's school lunch** on the **school gateway** system. You can order your child's meals several weeks in advance to save you having to do this each day. If you are having any trouble using this system please contact the school office and they will be happy to help you with this.

Interactive Learning Diary



Thank you to those of you who have already signed up to use the Interactive Learning Diary. We have now approved those accounts and you should be able to see some photos and observations of your child at school. We really hope you enjoy looking at these and talking about them with your child. We would also love to hear about their home achievements and experiences too so please add some home photos and observations. We also love to share these with the class to celebrate your child's achievements with them. If you have not yet signed up we ask that you do this as soon as possible as the unique code on the letter we sent out is time sensitive. Please come and see us if you are having any problems getting set up at all.

Parents Evening

Parents evening for Reception will be held in **December**. We will inform you about when and how you can sign up for these appointments to discuss your child's progress at school closer to the time.

PE

This half term your child will begin their PE sessions. We are currently awaiting confirmation of our hall slot and we will notify you of this as soon as we know. We will then ask that your child comes into school dressed in their PE kit on their PE day. They will then stay in their kit all day so please ensure they are wearing appropriate clothing to spend the rest of the day in. We would suggest a pair of joggers, their purple or white PE t-shirt, pumps and their school jumper in case they are cold throughout the day. We look forward to getting active and practising our physical skills!

Our learning Journey so far



Please see our school website to find out more about what we have been learning this last half term. You will also see that we have attached something called a **'collectable'** to this same E-mail today. We will be sending these out throughout the school year to help prompt your child to remember some of the key learning we have done that half term. Here are some ways you can reinforce and support your child's learning at home:

- You will see that one of your collectables is about our Learning dinosaurs. This half term we have especially focussed on the learning dinosaurs **'Try-a-tops'** and **'Stick-o-saurus.'** A 'Try-a-tops' always tries their best to have a go at something new and always puts in their best efforts. A 'Stick-o-saurus' perseveres and sticks at something even if it's a challenge for them. You can reinforce these learning behaviours at home too by saying things such as "well done you are being such a 'Try-a-tops' trying your peas today!"
- You will see that your second collectable is all about **Nursery Rhymes**. We have learnt several key rhymes this half term (Humpty Dumpty, Hickory Dickory Dock, Incy Wincy Spider). These

rhymes are a great way of supporting your child to develop their early language skills and ability to hear rhyme. Please practise signing these rhymes with your child to reinforce this learning.

- Play **rhyming games** with your child this will help them to hear sounds when they begin to learn to read and write e.g. I spy with my little eye something that rhymes with cat... or you could use some pictures or toys/objects and ask them to find the rhyming pairs. If they find this tricky try limiting their choice and ask them “does cat rat sound the same or cat sun?”
- Help your child to **practise recognising and writing their name**. We teach them to write their name with lower case letters, except for the first letter in their name. We show them the correct way to form their letters to ensure bad habits don’t become embedded in the muscle memory.
- Practise saying numbers out loud to 10. Spot these numbers in their environment e.g. on doors, cars, on signs etc.
- Lastly remember to share a daily **story time** together. Make this an enjoyable experience, returning to favourite books and taking time to talk about the pictures together.

This half term we will be beginning our phonics teaching and your child will start their reading and writing journey which is very exciting! Please look out for further information about this over the coming weeks.

Finally, we hope you all had a wonderful half term holiday and a well- deserved rest. We are looking forward to a very fun, festive next half term!

Mrs Russell and Miss Watkinson

