

# Foundation Stage News

September 16th 2022



## What a super start!

We have had a wonderful week getting to know you and your children and are so proud of them all for their brilliant start to school life. We are so impressed by how confident and independent they have all been as they have explored and played.

There were many big smiles as the children came into Reception to find their peg and start their play and learning. We always anticipate a few tears as they say their goodbyes but these quickly disappeared as they got busy with their new friends.

## Meeting our cuddly friends

The children have started to get to know some very important cuddly friends this week. These toys are used in class to help the children to learn and keep our class promises. So far, we have met 4 cuddly friends:

Mr Wobble says...



We are  
kind and gentle

Ziggy says...



We share

Nellie says...



We listen

Charlie Cheetah says...



We are safe

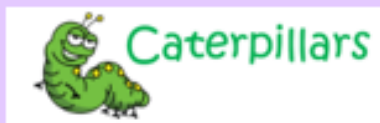
Mr Wobble told the children he could be kind and give them a hug if they were feeling sad in school. Ziggy helped Charlie and Mr Wobble to know when it was their turn to play with a toy and share using a sand timer. Nellie told everyone that when the adults ring the bells, that means it is time to 'stop', 'look' and 'listen'. Lastly, Charlie Cheetah said he could run really fast but needed the children to remember to walk when they were inside so that they could stay safe.

# Huddle Time

'Huddle Time' in Reception is a time when we gather together in smaller groups led by an Early Years staff member.

First thing in the morning it is 'Hello Huddle' time when we gather to find out who is in school each day and share any news we might have. Mid-way through the morning we stop for a 'Snack Huddle' to enjoy some fruit, milk or water. At the end of the school day, we gather our belongings and come together for a 'Story Huddle' and a time to reflect on our day in school.

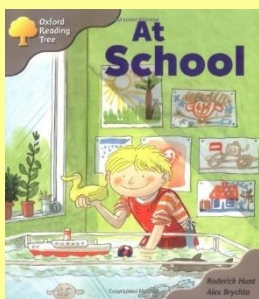
This week the children were excited to find out which Huddle they now belong to in Reception. These are the names of our four Huddle groups:



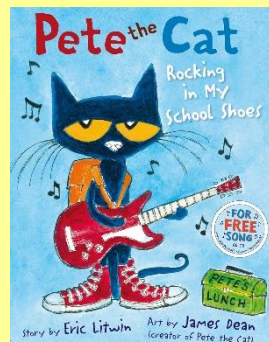
If your child cannot tell you which Huddle they belong to just yet, come and ask us and we can let you know so you can help them to remember.

## Books we shared this week

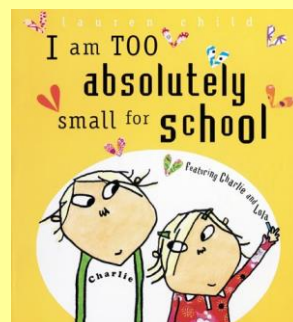
Each week we will share a collection of quality books with the children. They may be stories or information books. We try to link our books to the different areas of learning to help the children to deepen their understanding and to broaden their vocabulary. We also choose stories with no obvious link, just for pleasure. Below are the books we have shared this week. It is always good to revisit these books at home so that you can have conversations with your child about their experiences in school. If you do not have these books at home you may be able to find them at your local library or often there are video versions by searching the title online.



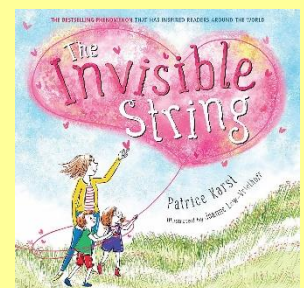
'At School' by Roderick Hunt and Alex Brychta.



'Pete the Cat, Rocking in My School Shoes' by Eric Litwin.



'I am Too absolutely too small for School' by Lauren Child.



'The Invisible String' by Patrice Karst.

## Snack Time

As mentioned earlier, we gather together for snack mid-morning. Your child is entitled to a free fruit snack each day provided in school and a cup of milk. You therefore do not need to send any food snacks into school for your child.

## Your child's school belongings

Your child needs to bring the following items into school every day:

- a school book bag (no rucksacks please as we cannot store them easily)
- a coat suitable for the weather
- a water bottle

Please ensure all of your child's belongings are clearly named – please don't forget to name the clothing they are most likely to remove e.g. jumpers and shoes, as many of these items look the same and are likely to get muddled. If you cannot source labels, a permanent marker will do the trick nicely – we can do this for you on request.

To help your child recognise their book bag we recommend you attach one small keyring or tie a special ribbon to the handle.

Please discourage your child from bringing toys to school unless they need it as a comforter – as you can imagine it is very tricky to ensure 60 toys are kept safe. As before, please ensure the toy is clearly named (only one toy please).

## The end of the school day

We thank you for your patience at home times. We are still sometimes needing to ask you for your child's password on collection. Please do not be offended by this, it is simply that we are gradually getting to know you all but it can take some time.

You will have noticed that we have asked you to form two lines when collecting your child. If your child's contact teacher is Miss Watkinson you will line up on the right-hand side of the Reception Gate and for Miss Drennan, the left-hand side. Please ensure you come close to the gate when it is your turn to collect as we may need to pass on a message to you.

**NB:** Please remember, from next week our Reception Gates open at 8:45am for an 8:55am start. Our day ends at 3:10pm and the main school finish at 3:15pm.

# Reception Baseline Assessment

Within the first six weeks of starting their Reception year, we carry out an assessment of your child's early skills and knowledge within the following areas of learning: literacy, communication, language and mathematics. We will be using the statutory Reception Baseline Assessment (RBA) to complete these assessments. The purpose of the RBA is twofold; firstly, it will inform us of your child's current level of learning in order that we can plan for their next steps and secondly, it will provide a benchmark for their ongoing progress through the school.

The RBA is a short, interactive and practical assessment using materials that your child will be familiar with. They will not be aware they are being assessed – rather it will be a playful experience in the company of a familiar adult (their contact teacher).

If you would like to read more information about the RBA, please follow this link to access a parent leaflet: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/reception-baseline-assessment-information-for-parents>

## Read Write Inc. Phonics



We will shortly begin our teaching of phonics in Reception. Phonics is the tool children use to begin to learn to read and write. At St Margaret's we use a programme for teaching called 'Read Write Inc. Phonics'. Below there is a link to a video which explains the programme. Next week we will introduce the pictures and words the children will need in order to go on to learn the letters m, a, s, t, d, i, n (mountain, apple, snake, dinosaur, tower, insect, net). As we begin our Reception Baseline Assessment, we will be finding out about your child's knowledge of letters and sounds in order that we can ensure they start at the right point on the Read Write Inc. programme. We recognise that children are at different points in their phonic learning journey and will ensure our teaching matches their individual need.

'What is Read Write Inc. Phonics':

<https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/icD2rGNa/jDsYAQ55>

## Our Reception weekly newsletter

We will endeavour to send out this newsletter each week via email to keep you informed of your child's learning experiences. It will also be published on our school website. We hope to include photographs of your children engaged in the learning experiences however we do need your consent for this. If you wish for your child to be included, please check the consents on your registration forms. This information is held by our school office if you need to check.

We will see you again next Tuesday following the funeral of HM Queen Elizabeth II.