



September 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been lovely to welcome all the children to school and I look forward to working with you and your child this year. The children are settling well into their new class and are becoming familiar with the new routines - which are detailed below for your information.

Arriving and Leaving

The school day starts at 8.50am and registration is at 9.00 a.m. prompt. Please can you wait around the Aspen Class flag to avoid blocking the path. At the end of the day, children should be collected from outside Aspen Class, again waiting near the flag. We ask pupils to tell us when they see the person who is collecting them so we can ensure all children go home safely. We are grateful for your patience whilst we do so. If your child is being collected by anyone different, please notify the class teacher or office.

Moving from Reception to Year 1

In year 1, children move from the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum to Key Stage one (KS1) of the national curriculum. The transition from reception to Y1 can be a struggle for some children as learning becomes more formal, adult directed and the expectations increase, (e.g. follow more instructions, focus for longer periods and become more independent), whilst for others they take it in their stride. To help make the transition as smooth as possible there will be opportunities for play based learning to begin with and the move for more formal learning will be gradually introduced.

Please talk positively about the move to Year 1 and play down your own anxieties if you have them. For example, instead of saying things like, 'You'll have to work a lot harder in Year 1', say, 'It will be exciting to learn about new things, won't it?' You can also help by focusing on your child's good experiences at school and by planning in some relaxed time at home each evening so that your child still has opportunities for undirected 'play' time. Try not to build in too many organised activities, such as after-school clubs, until you know your child is settled. Look for signs your child is struggling, such as trouble sleeping or reluctance to go to school. If you are concerned, please speak to me as soon as possible.

Physical Education (PE)

The children will have outdoor PE on a Friday morning with our 'Achieve for All' coach but will also have indoor PE whenever possible so please ensure your child's full PE kit is in school all week and is clearly labelled. We will send kits home on a Friday to be washed.

Reading

We thank you for your support with listening to your child read daily at home. It is really helpful for your child to read each book 3 times. The first time your child reads they will be focussing on sounding out many of the words so that they can read them. This takes a huge amount of effort and often means that children don't understand what they have read as all their energy has gone into trying to decode the words. By the second time your child reads the book they should need to spend less time sounding out words and begin to have an understanding of what they have read. In order to enable your child to develop their comprehension skills, please talk about the book, the characters and their

favourite part to see how well they have understood what they have read. By the time your child reads the book for the final time they should be more confident and be able to read the story fluently, beginning to add some expression to what they have read. I know this sounds like a long and drawn out process but it really does make a difference to your child's reading and will enable them to make better progress. Please record this in their reading diaries so we can see their progress.

Your child will have a short daily reading session at school as well as a more in-depth reading session once a week. When we feel your child is ready to move to the next book band we will carry out an assessment to confirm this and record any changes in your child's reading diary.

You will also have access to Bug Club within the next few weeks if you don't already, (we are unable to assign logins until all the GDPR forms have been submitted and collated), which will give you access to a range of online books to share with your child. More information on this to follow.

Spellings

Your child will be given spellings each Monday to practise at home as we will have a spelling test every Friday. We will practise these words throughout the week in the classroom but it would really help your child if you can help them learn their spellings, to the best of their ability, at home as well. At least 2 of these words will be tricky, (common exception words), these words will be in red to help your child remember that they won't be able to sound them out to spell them, they will need to remember them.

International Primary Curriculum (IPC)

This term our IPC unit of work is 'Let's go on holiday' We will discuss our holidays, plan a holiday for our class Bears to take in the winter and look at the other holiday festivals that happen in the Autumn Term.

Surprise Bag

In Aspen Class we have a 'Surprise Bag'. Each Monday a different child will be chosen to take the surprise bag home and put an item in it for the class to guess. Please can you help your child to think of and write 3 increasingly difficult clues for the rest of the class to try and work out what is in the bag. For example, if I chose a stuffed polar bear, my three clues might be: 1. This is something white. 2. This is something soft and cuddly. 3. This is something that would live in the North Pole if it were real.) Please return the bag to school on the following Friday. I hope that this encourages writing in a playful way.

Lunch options

As you can appreciate with free school dinners being available to all children in Key Stage One, it can take a long time to decide what the children are having for their lunch option. Please read through the menu at home so the children have an idea of what they want and so you can check that they will like that option. Children will then be able to choose their own lunch in the morning.

Snack Time

We provide free fruit for snack time and toast which can be paid for up front for a half term/term. During school hours we will continue to remind children to drink plenty of water. If your child would like to bring their own drink in a named drinks bottle, then please only send water. We are very keen to make sure that we have healthy classrooms and part of this is making sure that children do not graze on squash or fruit juice during the day which can seriously damage their teeth. Children will have access to milk and juice at lunchtime.

Sickness

We would like to remind you that if your child is off school due to sickness, they must not return to school for 48 hours.

Medication

The school is able to administer medication (both prescribed and unprescribed) and this needs to be left with either myself or the office with a signed form giving your consent to administer the medicine.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to ask me, I will be outside the classroom every morning from 8.40 where, if necessary, we can arrange a suitable time for a chat.

Kind regards,

Mrs Karen Peters