

UNITED SCHOOLS TRUST

Kingsteignton School



September 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Reception! We have had a fantastic first week in Rowan Class and we are really looking forward to getting to know you and your child over the coming year.

We will be having a Rowan parents meeting on **Tuesday 2nd October** from **5pm - 6pm**. This will be a great opportunity for us to talk to you about the learning that takes place in Rowan Class, looking at the curriculum, phonics, early reading and the online Learning Journals.

Stay and Play

We welcome you to come into Rowan Class to spend some learning time with your child on **Tuesday 9th** or **Wednesday 10th** or **Thursday 11th October** from **9am - 10am**. On these days you will be invited to stay after drop off. You will have the opportunity to observe our class phonics and then to join your child in their independent learning. It is a great way to understand some of our learning strategies and also how you can help your child at home. We ask that you do not bring siblings in with you to these sessions.

In the Mornings

Starting from **Monday 17th September**, the children will be leaving their adults at the gate and coming into the classrooms independently. When the bell rings at 8:50am, the children will come through the gate. They will then put their slippers on, hang up their coats and bags and find their name around the classroom where they will carry out a targeted learning job. I will make myself available in the mornings from 8:40am so that parents are able to pass on any messages. We will then be joined by Mrs Hewings at 9:00am ready for learning time.

Uniform

It is lovely to see all the children looking so smart in their uniform. Please could you make sure that all items of clothing, including shoes, coats and hats are clearly named. Please be aware that much of our learning takes place outside so please send a coat in every day.

School Lunches

We would like to remind you that your child is eligible for a free school meal each day which your child can order each morning on the clip board in front of Rowan Class. If you would prefer, your child may bring a packed lunch. Our Meal time assistants are called Miss Bailey, Miss Aggett, Mrs Smith and Ms Barnes. The children have access to a daily café where they can have water, toast and fruit and they are encouraged to help themselves independently.

Reading Books

Children will shortly be bringing home a reading book each night. Please look at the book with your child every day if possible, encouraging them to talk about what is happening in the book. Please sign the reading record book when your child has read each day and return it to school every morning. This allows for us to write in their record book when they have read with a teacher. The children will be able to change their books on a **Monday, Wednesday** and **Friday**. The children will also take part in a daily phonics session and we will let you know the sounds we are covering by putting a notice on the 'daily board' where you wait to collect your child. In time, your child will also have some keywords to learn to read.

All About Me Bag

On a Friday, the children will take it in turns to take home the 'All About Me Bag'. Your child can choose 3 objects that they would like to share with the class and pop them in the bag. These objects must be something that they feel confident sharing with their peers. They will then return the bag on Monday for sharing.

Home items in school

We ask that children do not bring in toys from home as they could get lost and broken. They may bring in books and achievements to share with the class. In Rowan Class, we have a basket under the chair where children can store such items.

Coached sessions

This year children in the Foundation Stage will be having sessions by a fully qualified professional PE Coach on a Friday morning. These sessions will be focusing on developing a variety of skills and the children's confidence. On a Friday morning, the children will be met by Mrs Burnham. She will carry out our daily routine, get them changed for P.E with Mrs Hewings and be with them during the coached sessions.

Helping in Class

Over the course of the year, we go on various trips and outings for which we require extra adult support. If you are able to help in this way, please let us know.

Reading sessions

Starting in October, we would like to welcome parents into Rowan Class to read with your child before the end of the school day. Each week, a different house team's parents will be invited in from 2.40pm - 3.00pm. We will then ask you to wait out in the orchard as we get the children ready for home. More information to follow.

House Points

Soon we will start introducing house points! House points are given out to children as a reward. We have four house groups; Exe, Dart, Teign and Taw. At the end of the week we will celebrate the house that have gained the most house points in our school celebration Assembly. The children also accrue house points for themselves as well as for their house and these go towards the award of badges. The first badge - bronze- is awarded when 1000 house points have been earned, silver for 2000 points and so on. We also have a house point champion, who gets to choose a prize from the box. There will also be two stars of the week. The star of the week will be a child who has shown themselves to be a great learner over the week.

As a class we have created our own rules. Positive reinforcement will be used at every opportunity to reinforce good behaviour through praise. We do have consequences if our rules are not followed.

On the first occasion the child's initials will be written on the sad face board. This represents that a warning has been given and no action will be taken. On the second occasion the child's name will be written on the sad face board with a sad face and, as a consequence, they will miss five minutes of their lunch break. This time will be spent reflecting on their behaviour. On the third occasion two sad faces will be given and the child will spend 10 minutes of their lunch break reflecting on their behaviour. On the third occasion, three sad faces will be given and the child will be escorted by an adult to a link classroom for 15 minutes and sent to Dr Fitch's office at lunchtime to explain their behaviour and to spend 15 minutes reflecting. Four sad faces will mean that the child is sent to a link classroom and Dr Fitch's office at lunchtime and will also lose their lunchtime play session.

School website

Information about this term's topic and areas of learning plus a weekly timetable is available for you to read on our school website. We also have a Rowan Class blog on the website that will be updated regularly. We hope you will enjoy seeing what your child has been busy learning at school.

Sickness

Please can we remind you that if your child has sickness or diarrhoea they need to stay at home for 48 hours after the last episode. If your child is absent from school please can you phone the school office every day of the absence by 9:30 to let us know.

Attendance

Your child will learn best if they are here every day. If your child has a temperature or is clearly unwell we understand that they cannot come to school, however if your child is just tired please do send them into school and be reassured that we would phone you to collect them if we felt they were too unwell to be here.

If you wish to speak to one of us at any time, please do come in and see us. Although it is difficult to talk at length in the morning, we are always happy to arrange a time for a longer chat. We are all looking forward to a busy term and we thank you for your continuing support.

Yours faithfully,

Miss Cat Bull
Reception class teacher