

7 September 2018

Telephone: Nottingham (0115) 965 2136
Email: office@woodsfoundation.notts.sch.uk

Dear Parents/Carers,

CLASS R INFORMATION LETTER - AUTUMN TERM 1 2018

Welcome to Class R!

The beginning of the school year can be quite daunting for all the new children (and Parents!), but I am pleased to say that everyone is really settling in well. They have spent the first few days getting used to the daily routines and have also been enjoying a wide range of fun activities.



Our topics always start with a question. This half term the question is 'Are we all the same?', so our focus for learning is 'Ourselves'. Below is a list of the areas of learning that your child will be exploring. It is by no means extensive, but it should provide you with an insight that will enable you to support your child's learning.

Communication and Literacy	Rhythm and rhyme, recall of story and characters, writing their names, verbal communication of ideas, alliteration, phase 1 and 2 phonics.
Mathematics	Counting on to 10 and back and 20 and back, recognising numbers to 10 and subitising numbers to 10, ordering to 10, counting 1 number to 1 object, find one more or one less up to 10, selecting the correct number to represent objects, comparative language (size, weight), 2D shapes, creating and describing patterns, days of the week, positional language
Understanding of the World	Talk about their surroundings, parts of the body, listening to sounds and their source, healthy food, facial features and emotions, signs of Autumn, celebrations; how your brain helps you to learn.
Creative	Collage, painting, high and low sounds, singing a wide range of songs, dance, sound effects to stories, printing.
Physical	Gross and fine motor skills, awareness of school environments, travelling and balancing on different parts of the body, catching and throwing.
PSED/R.E.	Classroom and school rules, talking about new experiences, understanding your body and what it can do, hygiene (washing hands), emotions. R.E. - Belonging and Baptism.
Weekly Topic Focus	17/9/18 - bones/skeleton, 24/9/17 - hands, 1/10/18 - The sense of hearing, 8/10/18 - The sense of sight, 15/10/18 - Being Healthy, 22/10/18 - Faces and emotions

Baseline Assessments

For the first couple of weeks back, I carry out informal assessments on the children, so I can plan work that best suits each child's needs and abilities. This includes reading, writing, number work and also physical skills (holding a pencil, using scissors, balancing, coordination etc.). This also links in with the transition information I received from your child's pre-school setting.



Reading

The children will receive their first reading books in a few weeks time. This process, along with the 'Letters and Sounds' teaching scheme, will be explained in the Phonics Meeting which will be held on **Monday, 17 September 2018 at 3.00pm in Class R**. This meeting will provide you with an opportunity to understand how we teach reading and writing, and how best to support your child's learning at home. I look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible. This meeting is only for **parents only**, the children will be in assembly. After this meeting, I will be sending a

letter home outlining what was discussed, so any of you who were not able to make the meeting, will still be informed. Your child may already be starting to read. If this is the case, could you please fill in and return the form below, as this information will help my initial assessments when placing your child on a suitable book level.

Reading books will be changed twice a week, either on a Monday and Thursday, or Tuesday and Friday. The details of when your child's book will be changed will be on the front cover of their reading diary. The books will not be changed unless there is a signature and comment from a parent to say that the books have been read. The reading diaries are a way of communicating information between home and school about your child's reading. Please feel free to write your positive comments about their progress in the diaries. We will read this **every time** we change their books.

Even if it is not your child's day to have their book changed, please send them in as if we have a spare moment(!) we will try to hear them read. You will also find in the front of the reading diary a table outlining the sounds we will be learning in our phonics sessions. These will be discussed more fully in the phonics meeting already mentioned.

Water Bottles

We encourage the children to have a **drink of water (no juice)** at school whenever they feel thirsty. For them to be able to do this, they need a **named** water bottle in school during the day. You can send in a **full bottle of water** in the morning, which we will send home at the end of the day. This can then be washed and refilled for the next day. This is really important to do as water bottles can carry bacteria if not washed and cleaned thoroughly. Please do not fill the bottles with fruit juice, either fresh or diluted.



Afternoon Snack

At school, we provide each child with a piece of fruit or vegetable for their morning break snack. You may like to provide your child with a healthy snack for their afternoon break. All the snacks are stored in the classroom in a 'snack box' and often children cannot remember which snack is theirs. Please can you make sure you put your child's name on their afternoon snack. A name can help sort the confusion! Our policy encourages eating various types of fresh and dried fruit, unsweetened popcorn, carrots, sliced cucumber and peppers, along with healthy snack bars. We suggest other types of snacks can be provided at home as a 'treat'. Chocolate, crisps and sweets are not allowed in school. We also request that no nuts are sent into school, either as a snack or as a filling in sandwiches, as we have a number of children who are intolerant to the allergens in various types of nuts. A separate drink does not need to be sent in as they can access their water when they need to.

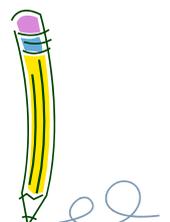


P.E.

The children have PE sessions on a Tuesday and Friday. Please can you ensure all items are named. It's only a small thing to do, but it really does help us locate the owners of misplaced items! Normally, we leave P.E. kits in school until October Half term, when we send them home for a wash.

Homework

Starting on Friday, 14 September 2018, the children will be sent home each week with a piece of homework. Please help your child complete the short task and send it back to school when it is complete. Homework will always be sent on a Friday and must be completed by the following Friday. This is in addition to their 'everyday' homework of practising their reading, their phonic sounds and tricky words (as detailed in the front of their reading diary when you receive them). This part of their homework is expected to last 10 - 20 minutes.



Newsletters and other school information

Apart from class newsletters and information, all other letters and communications are sent out via an email link to our school website. We also occasionally use a texting service. You will have already filled in a form and returned it to school with your email address and mobile number on it. If either of these have changed, please make sure the office has current contact details, so you can stay up to date with all the school news. You can also find a copy of this class newsletter in the 'Class R' section of the website. In the coming weeks, you will also be provided with access to the school's 'VLE' or Virtual Learning Environment'. This is where information and resources specific to Class R can be accessed.

Maths Targets

We will be sending out a handy booklet which outlines targets for Maths your child will be learning this term. The booklet is for guidance and details some activities you may like to try with your child to reinforce their learning at school.

Beginning of the school day

At the start of the school day, your child may become upset when they are leaving you. Please do not worry! You will find over time this will diminish. You are more than welcome to phone the school to see if your child has settled, but please be assured if there was a problem, we would always contact you. If you hear nothing - everything is ok!

Spring Snowdrop Bulbs

Over the past few years, the grass bank behind the benching on the Infant Playground has been planted with a few spring bulbs. We would like to plant some more so there is lots of colour in the Spring. As a way of celebrating the children starting in Class R, we wondered if you would like to donate a few snowdrop bulbs for the children to have a go at planting. If you would like to support us doing this, then please send your bulbs to school by the end of next week.

Wow Moments

At school we're always celebrating achievements your child makes in the classroom, but we very rarely get to share things your child might do outside of school. With this in mind, I thought it would be great if you could sit with your child and encourage them to talk about something special they have achieved outside of school. This might be scoring a goal in football, taking their feet off the bottom of the swimming pool, writing their name or even getting dressed by themselves! No matter how small it may seem - it's a big step for them! When you feel your child has achieved something new, please send in a 'Wow Moment' so we can then share it with the whole class and give your child the opportunity to develop their speaking and listening skills. The idea is that this is an 'ongoing' activity that will be done during your child's time in Class R. I've included a few spare notes, so perhaps you can keep them handy and when you notice something special over the coming weeks, you (or your child) can write it down at any time and send it in. We will keep these notes in your child's topic book at school, so it becomes a record of their achievements outside school.

Rewards in Class R

In Class R, we have various reward schemes that we use to encourage and motivate the children. We give out stickers for good work and behaviour and each day we choose our 'Star of the Day'. This is awarded to someone who has worked hard and behaved well. They receive a certificate to celebrate their achievement along with a special pencil. We are also part of the whole school 'Head Teachers' Award'. With this, the children are rewarded with a special sticker for any work their Teacher or Teaching Assistant feels they have worked extremely hard on. They are also given out for other achievements too such as kindness and consideration towards others. When they collect three stickers, they gain their first certificate. A further three gives them their second certificate and then three more rewards them with their third certificate. These will be presented in class and sent home for you to see and keep.

Help in School

If any of you feel you might have some time to spare to help in any way (hearing readers, general classroom help), then please let us know. We are always looking for extra pairs of hands! Just fill in the form at the end of this newsletter and then I will be in touch to sort out completing a DBS form with you. I usually have parents in to help once the children have settled down into their daily routines.



Thank you for your support of Class R. If you have any problems or worries, please do not hesitate to come and see me. If it is not possible to see you then, we will always make time when it's convenient.

Yours sincerely,

Mr P Asplin
Class R Teacher

Helpers In Class R - 2018

Your Name:

Child's Name:

I am happy to offer help on the following days:

Monday AM

Tuesday AM

Wednesday AM

Thursday AM

Friday AM

Monday PM

Tuesday PM

Wednesday PM

Thursday PM

Friday PM



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Class R - Reading Information

Child's Name:

Sounds already known:

Current books reading and colour level (if known):

Can already write:

