



## Welcome Back

Welcome to Ash Class's first newsletter. It has been a pleasure to meet all of you over the last week and to welcome your children into their Reception year. The children have been very busy exploring their new classroom and having their own drawer seems to be a popular feature for many. All the Reception staff have enjoyed getting to know the children and we are learning lots about them. These first couple of days have been very smooth, with lots of exploring of the classroom and the introduction of some adult led activities.

As we have previously shared, Miss Loveridge will be supporting in class from Monday to Thursday and Miss Woods will be supporting in class from Tuesday to Friday. Mrs May will be taking the children for their Forest School learning on a Friday afternoon and our PE session, with the coach, will be on a Wednesday afternoon.

### Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Our main focus this term is ensuring that your child is happy and settled into the school routine. In Reception, we feel that children learn best when they are in an environment where they feel safe and secure. They will be encouraged to access activities independently in both our indoor and outdoor environments.

### Physical Development

The children will have access to a variety of activities and resources to develop both their gross and fine motor skills to help support their mark-making and writing. These will involve playing with and manipulating playdough, using tweezers to pick up small objects and cutting out using scissors.

We will also be focusing on children independently toileting themselves and understanding why they need to wash their hands, along with being able to dress themselves. To help with this, please could you encourage your child to put on their own coat and pull up their zip.

It would be really helpful if your child keeps their P.E. kit in a named bag on their peg in school so that we can be flexible in when we include P.E. activities into their learning and so they are ready for Wednesday afternoons with the coach.

### Communication and Language

The children will be encouraged to share and communicate their experiences with their friends and adults in the class. This allows the children the opportunity to recognise how special they are as individuals and encourages them to form friendships and to feel part of their class as a whole. We will also talk and complete activities about families and who is part of their family. We do this in a number of ways, for example, through discussion, circle time and encouraging the children to listen and talk to each other.

### Literacy

This term, we will begin by focusing on the early stages of reading and writing. The children will experience a range of texts in order to encourage a love of books and reading to carry on throughout their lives. In the coming weeks, we shall begin to teach Phonics using the Read Write Inc programme. As the term progresses, the children will become familiar with the set 1 sounds and use these to read cvc words. We shall look at some common exception words too. The children will also practice writing their name and some cvc words.

### Mathematics

In Mathematics we will begin by focusing on counting, recognising and ordering numbers. In Reception, we want to ensure that the children develop a secure understanding of the value of numbers so that they are able to manipulate them confidently when starting to use them for calculations later in the year.

### Understanding the World

For this area of learning, we will be encouraging the children to talk about the world around them and to think about why things are happening. We hope they will be asking many questions to develop their knowledge further. In sharing sessions, we will encourage the children to talk about events and experiences in the lives and in the lives of others.

### Expressive Arts and Design

The children will have continued access to a variety of resources which they can then use to model, paint and create collages, so each one can be an artist. We will provide opportunities for the children to use their imagination in role-play and using a variety of small world toys. They will also have the opportunity to explore the sounds of different musical instruments and learn new songs and rhymes.

### Forest School

Our Forest School day will be Monday afternoon with Mrs May and staff from the Early Years Team. Initially the children will be split into two groups and do alternate weeks as Forest School is completely new for them. Over the next few weeks we will be familiarising the children with the school site and slowly introducing them to Forest School. I will let you know, via Class Dojo, when the children need to bring their Forest School kit. Please refer to the school website and click on the 'Forest School' tab for more information. This term, we will be learning Forest School rules, using equipment and tools safely. We will also be having our first fire and be learning about hibernation and migration.

### Homework

In order to support and consolidate your child's learning this term, we would like you to:

**Read** – Please share lots of different storybooks with your child on a daily basis. Soon, your child will also bring home a library book for you to share together. These books will need to be in school on a Wednesday as this is when we will visit the Library to change them. Later in the term, as the children develop their phonic skills, we will start to send home books linked to their phonic knowledge.

**Phonics** – In a few weeks' time, when we have started to use the Read Write Inc Phonics programme with the children, we will upload to Class Dojo the sounds that we are learning for you to practise. It will be very important for your child to pronounce the sounds correctly so please do follow the links when we upload them.

**Maths** – At home, please support your child by counting objects and actions such as claps, jumps and hops or the steps as they walk up and down the stairs. They can also be number hunters and spot numerals in the environment around them such as speed signs, door numbers and number plates.

**Website and Newsletter** – <http://www.overstone-wing.bucks.sch.uk>

Remember to check the 'Latest News' on the school website to keep up to date with what is happening. The school newsletter will come out on the last Friday of the month and will celebrate what we have been up to and will tell you what is coming up in the next month. This will be sent to you via Parent Mail.

### Behaviour & Rewards

**Dojo points** – We will be using these as the term progresses. These are given to children demonstrating the school values, e.g. sharing a good piece of work or demonstrating good manners. The children will receive certificates to mark 50-point milestones in the celebration assembly.

**Sharing outside achievements** – Children will be able to share achievements from outside school in celebration assembly, e.g. swimming badges.

**Weekly certificate** – One child in each class will receive a values certificate in celebration assembly for showing the school values.

**Governor award** – Termly the class will hold a secret vote for one person in their class who they feel has consistently demonstrated the school values. These children will be presented with a Governor badge to be worn on their uniform.

**Headteacher postcard** – These are awarded to children when they are sent to the Headteacher for demonstrating good behaviour, completing good work and for clear evidence of showing the school values.

### Equipment

Please send your child in each day with a clear named drinks bottle filled with water which can be refilled throughout the day. Please ensure your child has a waterproof coat for school which is clearly named.