

Puddletown Church of England First School

We care enough to try our best in all we do because we are wonderfully made: made to love, made to flourish, made to be unique

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INVESTORS IN PEOPLE



CHARTER STANDARD SCHOOLS



21st September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, I would like to say a big well done to both parents and children for a **fantastic** start to the new school year. The children are beginning to really settle and have quickly adapted to the new classroom, routines and expectations. Children are forming good relationships with the adults, and enjoying interactions with friends both new and old.

Mrs Brenda Newton is our teaching assistant and we are both looking forward to getting to know your children and helping them progress with their learning and development. We regard ourselves as partners with you and your child in this process and if you have any information to share, or concerns you wish to discuss then we are more than happy to speak to you at a mutually convenient time, as this enables us to give our full attention to the children as they come into the classroom in a morning. Pick up time is normally the best time to talk to us.

A few housekeeping points:

- Please ensure your child has a named water bottle. This should contain water only (not juice or squash)
- We do have **free fruit** available to all of the children in Reception, but we do not know which fruit we are going to get in advance. If your child would like to have a snack from home for mid-morning then please send in a piece of fruit or vegetable (the school has a healthy eating policy) clearly labelled with their name.
- Please ensure your child brings a waterproof coat to school. We spend a lot of time outdoors and we will need to be prepared for when the weather changes.
- Please ensure all your child's clothing and belongings are clearly named.
- Putting a sticker or small keyring on your child's book bag helps your child to independently find their book bag at home time.
- Please can you take the time to discuss meal options with your children so that they are happy with their choice? We will give you feedback if they don't like a particular meal.
- Our class Open afternoon this term will be on **Wednesday 8th November at 1.45pm**. More details to follow.

- This term the children will be having dance every Tuesday afternoon with myself and they will have PE on a Friday afternoon with Mr Treble.
- I have now completed the baseline assessment with all the children. The Reception Baseline Assessment (RBA) is a statutory assessment. It provides a snapshot of where pupils are when they arrive at school and will help me with planning for their individual needs moving forward.
- Your child will be given a Year 4 buddy next week to help look after them. We will meet up weekly to do different activities together. This normally works really well and the children really enjoy it.
- I will be running a parent's information session this term about Phonics and Maths - date to follow.
- There will be a Parents Evening on Monday 16th October and Wednesday 18th October. A separate letter will be sent out about this.

TOPIC

This term our topic is 'What makes me special?', please see our topic web which is on the school website under curriculum. We will be exploring our feelings and talking about what makes us unique. We will be talking about our families and getting to know each other. We will also be looking at our senses and learning about why they are important. Through our learning we will be drawing self-portraits, making pebble pictures of our family, having weekly dance lessons based on the theme of ourselves. As well as this, this term is very much focused on settling the children into the routines of the school and supporting them with the change from pre-school to school. We still carry out a lot of our learning through play but our timetable is more structured.

PHONICS

We are beginning to learn phonemes (individual sounds) using the 'Little Wandle Phonics Scheme' and below you can see the order of learning. Alongside learning how to say each sound we teach the children the grapheme (how the sound is written) and we practise this each day. Yesterday you were sent home a scrapbook (red book) with instructions on how to complete and a reading diary (pink) with little activities to practise this week's learning at home.

Wk beg 18.9.23. s a t p

Wk beg 25.9.23. i m n d

Wk beg 2.10.23. g o c k tricky word is

Wk beg 9.10.23. ck e u r tricky word I

Wk beg 16.10.23.h b f l tricky word the

Reading

Next week the children will begin to have guided reading sessions during the week. These will begin with wordless books. We keep detailed notes of your child's progress

in these sessions in school. They will then bring their book home to read with you over the weekend. This is their opportunity to practise their learning from the week. Please remember to return the book on a Monday. Please use the pink reading diaries to record your child's reading at home as this is very helpful for me to read. Regular reading at home will make a huge difference to their progress in reading. At the end of each half term the children are assessed on their phonics and tricky words and reading books are matched accordingly. They will only begin reading books with words when they are confident with blending sounds together to make words. All children will reach this at different points so please don't worry about this or compare your child to others. We will support those children who are finding this hard and give them extra help if needed.

The children will come home a library book for you to share with them on a Friday and this will be changed the following Friday.

Tricky words

There is a list of tricky words (words that have to be learnt by sight) in the back of the pink diary. This term we learn the words **is**, **the** and **I**.

MATHS

We follow White Rose Maths. There is lots of information on their website for parents. Each week we will be focusing on different number concepts/ topics.

Wk beg 18.9.23. Match, sort and compare

Wk beg 25.9.23. Match, sort and compare

Wk beg 2.10.23. Talk about Measure and Patterns

Wk beg 9.10.23. Talk about Measure and Patterns

Wk beg 16.10.23. Pt's me 1,2,3

If you have any questions or queries on the above, or anything else, please do not hesitate to speak to me. My direct email is nflux@puddletownfirst.dorset.sch.uk
Here's to an enjoyable and rewarding year for everyone!

Best wishes,
Mrs Flux and Mrs Newton