

Puddletown Church of England First School

'Inspiring learners to be the best they can be'

Dorchester Road, Puddletown, Dorchester, DT2 8FZ Tel: (01305) 848206 Fax: (01305) 848094

Head of School: Mrs A Seal

E-mail: office@puddletownfirst.dorset.sch.uk

www.puddletownfirst.dorset.sch.uk



23rd, September 2024

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.

A few housekeeping points:

- Please ensure your child has a named water bottle.
- 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.
- 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.



INVESTORS IN PEOPLE



CHARTER
STANDARD
SCHOOLS



- 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 was given a Year 4 buddy last 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. This term your child will be meeting up with their buddy on a Thursday afternoon.

TOPIC

This term our topic is '**Me and My Community**'. This topic teaches children about the different communities that they are part of and explores themes including family, friendship, school and people who help in the local community. They will be finding out about how they have changed from when they were babies. Finding out about how they can look after their environment. The children will be learning about different occupations that familiar adults and members of their community have. We will also be talking about the people in their community who are key workers including delivery drivers and shop workers, and why this was important. Finally we will be naming and talking about human-made features in the local environment. The children will be exploring pictures and photographs of landmarks and talking about places they recognise.

Also this term our focus is on settling the children into the routines of the school and supporting them from the change from pre-school to school. We still carry out a lot of our learning through play but our timetable much 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 about 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 16.9.24. s a t p

Wk beg 23.9.24. i m n d

Wk beg 30.9.24. g o c k tricky word **is**

Wk beg 7.10.24. ck e u r tricky word **I**

Wk beg 14.10.24. h b f l tricky word **the**

Reading

Last week the children began guided reading sessions during the week. These started 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 **Tuesday**. 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 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

This year we are following the NCETM (National Centre for Excellence in the Teaching of Mathematics) for all our number work and White Rose Maths for our topic Maths. This term we will be looking at matching, sorting and comparing. The children will be matching pictures and objects and identifying sets. We started our Maths learning last week.

Autumn 1	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5
Focus	Subitising	Counting, ordinality and cardinality	Composition	Subitising	Comparison
Set 1	Subitising within 3	Focus on counting skills	Explore how all numbers are made of 1s Focus on composition of 3 and 4	Subitise objects and sounds	Comparison of sets - 'just by looking' Use the language of comparison: <i>more than</i> and <i>fewer than</i>

By the end of the week you will be able to find the topic plan for this term on the school website along with the long term plan for how learning is structured for the whole year.

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