

Tuesday 10th September 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are off to an incredible start to the school year - it has been wonderful watching the children settle into school life with confidence and enthusiasm. Friendships are also beginning to blossom. Exploring our new school and classroom has been an adventure in itself. We have spent lots of time getting to know each other and settling into our daily routines.

The start of a school year is always busy, so I would like to make you aware of the following:

- Please ensure that your child comes to school with their book bag and a named water bottle everyday. It is essential that every child has a book bag.
- Please ensure that your child has a complete change of spare clothes (t-shirt, pants, trousers and socks) that have been left in school and all items have been named!
- Please ensure that your child has a pair of wellies, waterproof trousers and a waterproof coat that has been named and left in school.
- P.E is on Wednesdays, beginning 18th September. Please could children wear the correct kit (Longvernal P.E. t-shirt, black shorts or sports trousers and daps or trainers) to school on a Wednesday.
- Forest School is on a Friday afternoon, beginning 20th September. Forest school lessons will take place regardless of the weather (unless extreme) so please can you ensure your child comes to school on Fridays, wearing the appropriate attire (long sleeved top and trousers/leggings). Wellies and waterproofs need to be labelled and kept at school (please do let me know if you need to take them home at any point). As it starts to get colder, please provide your child with warmer items, including hats and gloves.
- Every child has been given a reading book to take home with them this week, along with a reading journal. The books that have been sent home don't contain words but children should use them to create their own stories and talk about the illustrations (there are questions within the books to support discussions).
- Once children have learnt the first ten sounds, they will start to take home R.W.I sound blending books.
- Children are expected to read at home AT LEAST 3 TIMES a week. Books and reading journals need to be brought to school daily. This way we can monitor progress and change books when necessary. Reading regularly has such a positive impact on every area of a child's learning, so your support with this would be much appreciated. All children will be required to read R.W.I. scheme books twice to aid their fluency of sight word recognition.
- When we begin Phonics lessons, the children will be sent home with their sound books to practise letter formation and pronunciation. By week 3, the children

will be learning a new sound every day, therefore it is important that they complete a page in their sound book every evening for consolidation.

- Children will also pick and take home a '*book to share*' every week. This is a book of a higher reading level that can be read to and shared with your child.
- Optional home learning opportunities will be sent home at the start of every term for you to complete with your child if you wish. I will encourage the children to bring in anything they have made or found to discuss what they have been learning at home, during circle time.
- I have attached a sheet with 'Proud Clouds'. Please fill these in whenever your child does something to be celebrated at home and put it in their book bag. We will celebrate proud clouds and your child's achievements during circle time. Proud clouds can be anything from eating all their breakfast to learning to ride their bike.
- Finally, if you haven't already done so, please could you email me with an 'approved pick up list' for your child. This should include anyone who may be likely to pick your child up at the end of the day. You can share a password with me via email if you require. For safety reasons, I will not let your child go home with anyone who is not on the list or has been discussed with either myself or the office prior to pick up, regardless of whether the child knows the person or not.

As always, I am more than happy to answer any questions or queries you may have before or after school, so please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for all your support. I am looking forward to an exciting year and working in partnership with you to best support your child.

Kind regards,  
Daisy Whittaker