

14th September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

We just wanted to let you know that all children have made a fantastic start to their first year in school. They have become so independent and confident within the setting already and are enjoying exploring their new classroom, both indoors and outdoors with friends old and new.

I am sure many of you might have heard about Pete the Cat. He has been helping us to settle at school with his song 'Rocking in my school shoes' and also helping us to count and recognise numbers using the buttons on his bright yellow shirt. Throughout each day, we have enjoyed exploring in the role play home corner, the music room and the Creation Station. We have been cutting, sticking, making, painting and much, much more. Out in our courtyard area we have ridden bikes and scooters and investigated with sand and water. Whilst the weather has been so lovely, we have been cooling off in the afternoons with some time to explore the grassy hills area at the bottom of the field. We have loved this!

Please can we remind you that children will need a pair of clearly named wellies in school ready for when the weather turns wetter. This will ensure that they can continue to access all the wonderful outdoor provision around the school. Can you also please ensure that **all** items of your child's clothing are clearly named. This helps to ensure that clothes are not mixed up during changing for PE lessons.

Later in the term, we will be sending **reading books home** for you to share with your child. When we start the book will come home on a Friday. Please return this book on the following Tuesday. We will change this book and send out a new one on the Wednesday. Please return this book on Friday and we will change it again. This will continue to repeat throughout the year. To begin with, all children will bring home a **picture book** or a book just with an odd word on each page. We do not expect your child to read this word. The adult can read the word and talk about it. This helps the children to start recognising the difference between pictures and print. Please encourage your child to talk about the pictures and then the story as a whole. The books contain questions at the end which we would love you to discuss with your child, as it will enhance their comprehension skills. Your child will have a red reading record. This is for you to log/date each time they read and make any comments you feel necessary. Please still include any extra reading that your child engages with across the week or weekend. We suggest that you aim to read with your child at least three times per week please.

We will be enhancing the children's reading opportunities very soon with an exciting online reading scheme that fully compliments the books that they bring home from school. Further details of this will follow at a later date.

PE is on a **Friday**. Currently it is still warm enough for shorts, but please ensure that your child has a clearly named warm tracksuit in their kit for when the weather gets colder.

Please remember that if you have any worries or concerns do not hesitate to speak to us at the door or contact the school office.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Cross and Miss Ollier