

Reception Newsletter

January 2018

Class news

Since returning to school, the children have been very busy making their New Year's Resolutions for the year ahead. They created a class book entitled 'Our Goals' as a reminder.

They have also been learning about winter and about animal hibernation. They enjoyed making hibernation boxes for woodland animals such as mice and hedgehogs. They also made some bird feeders to help feed the birds during the winter months; you might have seen them in our garden.

In maths, the children have been learning about one less than a given number and subtraction. They have been singing number rhymes to help them with these concepts and have been taking away with real objects to work out simple sums.

Phonics

The children will not be learning any new phonemes for a while. They will be practicing all the phonemes learnt already and will be focusing on using their phonics to read and write words and sentences. Please continue to look through your child's home learning folder to help them learn the phonemes they are not sure of.



Reading Books



Some children will be bringing home a reading book each week. These books are for the children to read to an adult. Please refer to the '*Reading with your child at home*' guidelines we have sent out and also the bookmark suggestions for each reading band.

Please keep your child's reading book in their book bag every day.

Every child will bring home a library book each week. This is a book for you to read to your child. Please make sure your child's library book is also kept in their book bag every day.

Please make sure the books are taken care of when at home. If your child's reading books or library books are torn or lost, we will send you a letter requesting payment to replace the book.

Please also make sure your child's book bag contains only books or letters. Water bottles should be carried separately as they can leak and spoil the books.

Tapestry Online Journals



There are still a few parents who have not accessed Tapestry, or who have not looked at their child's journal since the beginning of reception. Please tell us if you cannot access Tapestry and we will try to help. We are sure you will be very pleased when you see photos and videos of your child's learning at school!

Mrs Hurn will be available to help you to logon to your child's account during the Parent Consultation Evening on Tuesday 6th February.

Thank you to the parents who are accessing their child's journal, especially those who have replied to observations or have uploaded their own photos and videos; we really appreciate the effort you have made. We would love to see more home photos or videos of your child's learning, please refer to the attached information sheet for the types of observations we would like to see.

Open Lessons

Thank you to all the parents/carers who came to our open phonics lessons last term, it was lovely to see so many of you there. We hope you found the lesson helpful and have a clearer understanding of how we teach phonics in reception. We will be holding an open lesson for maths on Wednesday 21st and Thursday 22nd February at 9am. Letters will be sent out soon.

Spare Clothes

We are running very low on spare underwear for the children. If your child has a toilet accident, we might need to call you to bring some spare clothes into school for your child. To avoid this situation, please ensure your child has spare uniform and underwear in a named bag (**including socks and pants**). They can keep the bag on their peg. Spare, clean underwear donations are always welcome.

Punctuality

Please ensure your child **arrives before 8.50am every day**, we expect all children to be in class ready for their learning at this time. It is also very important that you **collect your child on time at 3.15pm**. All Reception staff have to attend meetings after school every day and it is very inconvenient if the staff have to take children to the office because parents/carers are late. If you have older children in the school, please collect them **after** you have collected your child from Reception. It can be upsetting for a child to regularly be the last one left after all other children have gone home.

Illness and absences



Some children are regularly missing school and this will inevitably affect their learning progress as they miss important class lessons and social interactions with their peers. Please only keep your child off school if they are genuinely ill.

Some children are also very tired at school, it is important for your child's health and wellbeing that they get a good night's sleep, the NHS recommend that 4-5 year olds have **11-11.5 hours** sleep per night.

To reduce the spread of cold/flu viruses, **please avoid giving your child Calpol or similar medication to bring a high temperature down in order to send them into school**. Please only send your child to school when his/her temperature is normal without medication.



School Uniform and Outdoor Clothing

Some children have been coming to school without the correct uniform:

- Trousers, pinafores and skirts must be **grey**, not black.
- Tights and socks must be white or grey.
- Shoes must be plain black.
- If your child wears boots to school, they must bring a pair of black shoes to change into. Coats need to be **warm and waterproof with a hood**.
- All items including coats, hats, gloves, scarves, bags and spare clothes must be **labelled** with your child's name.



Jewellery is not allowed; this includes necklaces, bracelets, earrings (except for studs) and watches. Hair accessories should be kept to a minimum (e.g. plain headbands).

You can check the uniform requirements here: <https://www.colindale.barnet.sch.uk/parents/uniform/>

Water bottles

We have noticed a few children have been bringing fruit juice or squash in their water bottles. Water bottles should only contain water.

Junk Modelling

We are running low on resources for junk modelling. Please can you bring in **small items** for our junk modelling stock (e.g. **small** boxes, tubes, pots, egg boxes, **no toilet rolls**). Please make sure the items are clean and have not contained nuts or nut products. Thank you.



Thank you for your support

Mrs Andreou, Miss Dark (PCGE student), Miss Dirwai, Mrs Hurn, Mrs Hussain, Mrs McDonough, Miss Nuttall, Mrs Pesnani, Miss Reid, Miss Toma & Miss Whiter

Reception Staff Team