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Wednesday 13th September, 2017

Reception - Class Newsletter - Autumn Term 1 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the beginning of your time at The Prince of Wales School!

This is going to be a busy first term for Reception with so much to look forward to! In the first term we will be helping the children to settle into the routines of the school day as well as outlining our high expectations for all children.

The Reception team are always available if you have any questions; please do not hesitate to ask us about anything. The team are:



Mr. Gibson



Mrs Howell

**Topic** – We will be studying a variety of topics running up to Christmas, including:

**Autumn/Harvest** – We will be looking at what is changing all around us in the environment. We will also be taking a trip up to Maiden Castle Farm in the build up to our harvest celebration where the children from Reception & Pre-school will be singing a song together. We will also be doing some baking and cooking within this topic as well as learning about the origins of celebrating harvest.

**The Gruffalo** – There will be lots of opportunities for art within this topic as well as drama and writing! We will also be going on a trip to Thorncombe Woods for a day (date to follow) filled with Gruffalo related activities.



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**Bonfire & Remembrance** – We'll be having a go at creating some firework scenes within this topic as well as learning some of the history behind the time of year. There will also be a brief outline of Remembrance Day and the meaning behind the poppy.

**Christmas** – In this topic we will look at the traditional Christmas story as well as making presents, Christmas trees and cards! Reception will also be working with Year 1 and Year 2 to deliver a Christmas production.

## **Dates for diary:**

- Maiden Castle Farm – TBC
- Harvest Festival – Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September – 9.10am – 9.45am – School Hall.
- Thorncombe woods – TBC
- Parents' evenings – Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> October (17.00-20.00pm) and Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October (15.45-17.45pm)
- Inset Days (no children in school) – Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October
- Individual and Siblings School Photos – Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November
- Reception Class assembly – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November 9.20am – School Hall

**Wow! Moments** – We are already very grateful to all of the parents that have brought in Wow! Moments to share with us, thank you very much! We will read all of the Wow! Moments out in class before sending them to Mr Spracklen. Please continue to bring in Wow! Moments throughout the year with anything you see your children do that makes you go 'WOW!' Throughout the year there will also be opportunities to take part in the home learning project for that half-term. Please note this is not compulsory.

**Snacks and Water** – To maximise our brain function and encourage a healthy lifestyle, we encourage all children to eat healthily. The school also provides free fruit for children to have as a snack at break time. Children under the age of 5 are also entitled to a free bottle of milk every day. Snacks, such as crisps and sweets will be positively discouraged.

**Reading diaries** – Your child will soon be sent home with a reading diary. These are for you to keep and we will write in them every week with the book we have been reading in group reading. We would kindly ask that children **keep these diaries in their book bags** and place their book bags in their trays when they come in in the morning. Please feel free to add a comment about any reading you do at home. The diaries act as a link between school and home but if there is something important you wish to discuss with us, please come and tell us immediately instead of writing it in the diary.

**Reading** – We will be starting our group reading sessions soon and these will continue all year on a weekly basis. We will be encouraging children to use the skills we are learning in phonics to help them decode the text we are reading. Individual reading books will soon be introduced to the children but these will then be parents/carers responsibility to change in the school library – more to follow. Children cannot take more than three individual



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reading books out at any given time. A record is kept of books going in and out of the library, so it is important that children do not put their library book back without registering it.

If you would like us to run any workshops or tutorials based on reading, writing or maths then please let us know! We are happy to run these in a large group or smaller groups; whichever is preferable.

**Blog** – We try our best to keep our class blog up-to-date. This information can be accessed at home, work or on your mobile using our class RSS feed:

<http://pow-reception.blogspot.co.uk/>

Or by clicking on the 'Reception page' on the school website (through the blogs link). We welcome your thoughts on what else could be included on our class blog.

**PE Kits** - Please could you ensure that your child has a full PE kit in school! We will be planning activities to develop children's spatial awareness as well as control and coordination this term. PE kits are sent home every half-term for a wash.

**Jigsaw** – At The Prince of Wales school we use a scheme of work for our Personal, Social, Health and Emotional (PSHE) development called 'Jigsaw'. Jigsaw has mindfulness underpinning it and as well as teaching children the skills to improve their life chances later on, we also aim to help them develop personal awareness. Each half-term we will start a new 'puzzle' that will have weekly focuses. At the beginning of each new puzzle there will be an assembly that introduces the puzzle. This half term's puzzle is entitled 'Being me in my World'. The puzzle for the next half term is 'Celebrating Differences'. The Jigsaw scheme also helps to form our class charter. This is an agreement that we discuss with the children over several Jigsaw sessions, it is then signed by the children and displayed in the classroom. The charter contains some of our main rights and responsibilities in school. These include; the right to learn, the right to be heard, the right to food and water, the right to play, the responsibility to listen, the responsibility to try your hardest, the responsibility to not waste food and water and the responsibility to use our things nicely.

We look forward to an exciting term ahead!

Yours faithfully,

Mr. C. Gibson

Reception Class Teacher



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