



Dear Parents and Friends,

Welcome back and a very warm welcome to our new children and parents.

For the first half term, as a whole school, we are focussing on a lovely book; 'Here We Are' by Oliver Jefferies. Our primary focus will be the wellbeing of our children and ensuring they are happy at school.

We will learn and play outside as often as possible, so please make sure that your child has a named pair of trainers and wellies for playtimes.

For the first half term, P.E. will be **outside** on a **Monday** (Reception and Yr1) and **Friday** (Yr1). All children should have their full P.E. kit in school all week. For the first half term please send in some tracksuit bottoms too. They will be sent home at half term. Please ensure that all items are named as they often seem to get muddled up! Long hair should always be tied back, please. **Small, plain stud** earrings may be worn, but please ensure they are removed for PE days, sports days etc.

'Show and Tell' will take place each **Wednesday** afternoon: please send in small and special items only for showing please. Animal groups will take it in turns, starting with **Squirrels on 16th September**. See additional attachment for further details and dates for each group.

We are excited to remind you that Apple Class will take part in weekly forest school sessions on a **Thursday** afternoon in the school grounds. Please ensure children bring clothes to change into every Thursday in a named bag. They will need old warm clothes: a long sleeved top, waterproof trousers and a waterproof coat.

Your child will bring their book bag home every day-please check it for any letters or comments we have made in their home/school diary. Over the summer, we have rearranged our reading book boxes. They are no longer 'fruit' names such as 'Kiwi' or 'Raspberry' but are now arranged so that each box targets a particular aspect of reading: a group of sounds or a specific skill. We would like to encourage you to share a book every day with your child-just 5 or 10 minutes a day will be very valuable. There are some helpful hints to support this inside the home/school diary. Each child will also have a phonics pack containing the sounds they are learning and Reception children will also have a Maths pack. Please practise these little and often.

Once a week your child will be given the opportunity to choose a book from our school library. This is intended to be a book for you to **share** with your child and not one they should be expected to read independently. These books may be kept at home and returned on the day your child visits the library. Year 1 will go to the library on a **Monday** and Reception children will go on a **Friday**.

Throughout the year, when we feel they are ready, Year 1 children begin 'Maths Matters Challenges'. Their Maths Matters book will be sent home, which will enable you to practise number skills with your child and to support their progress and achievements.

Please feel free to come and see us if you wish to discuss anything: your comments and support are greatly appreciated. After school on the playground is a good time to do this, particularly on a Wednesday. We are, however, currently restricting visitor access to the classrooms. We're sure this term will be both an exciting and enjoyable one for all of us.

Best wishes,
Laura Plackett and Alison Chilton