



Head Teacher : Mrs D Reynolds - BSc Hons QTS NPQH

*Aim High*

*Never Give Up*

*Follow Your Dream*

*Lead By Example*

October 2013

Dear Parents/Carers,

A huge thank you for your on-going support in settling your child into school and for encouraging a positive start to their schooling lives. We are continually impressed with children's behaviour in Reception and their enjoyment of school so far. All children enjoyed the 'All About Me' theme and have learned a lot about their peers, teachers and themselves. This letter will briefly outline what we will be looking at in Reception during the next half term.

### **INTERGRATED CURRICULUM**

Next half term we will be under a theme of 'In the Forest'. We will be looking at, and basing the learning around, a range of forest themed books such as:

- The Gruffalo
- Owl Babies
- We're Going on a Bear Hunt
- The Gruffalo's Child

We will continue to incorporate your child's interests in to our planning so please let us know if your child has a new hobby or interest that we can all learn about! On **Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November** we hope to take the class on a 'Gruffalo Hunt' at Cuckoo's Hollow, a local woodland area, with the Year 1 class. We do ask that children dress up for this walk in a 'forest creatures' theme; such as a rabbit, fox or huntsperson. However, this experience can only be achieved if we have the correct number of adults to support the walk and minimise any risks that could happen on this walk. If you are interested in helping out for this walk please inform a member of the Reception team.

### **HOME LEARNING**

We will introduce home learning in Reception after Christmas break. This so your children can focus fully on reading and writing the sounds they have been learning through Read, Write, Inc. The writing sheets that are sent home are for your guidance to support your child's writing of each sound. These do not have to be returned to school but you are more than welcome to if you would like a teacher to look over them. If you wish, you can undertake a 'creative project' over half term relating to the theme of The Gruffalo, although this is not compulsory. This project could be making a forest den out of a shoe box, helping your child create a picture of the Gruffalo or taking pictures of woodland areas that a Gruffalo may live in. Any projects that are completed will be displayed in the Reception classroom to honour your child's hard work and achievements over the half term break.

### **READ, WRITE, INC**

The Read Write Inc programme is proving successful with the children and we are seeing huge progression from all children in the Reception Class. All children are keen to learn the new sounds and show enthusiasm when in a Read Write Inc session. We are now focusing much more on Fred Talking the learned sounds alongside learning the new sounds. Your continued support through the Read Write Inc booklets is highly valued and has helped us understand the support we need to give to your child. Playing simple games such as 'I Spy', going on a sound walk or helping your child to recognise letters in their home environment will help to reinforce the sounds your child has been learning.



## **CORE LEARNING SKILLS**

During the next half term our learning skills will focus on 'Developing Independence and Responsibility'.

Reception will focus on these 'I can' statements:

- I can demonstrate that I understand basic rules and routines by following them
- I can suggest ways to help others
- I can select an activity from a range provided for me
- I can undertake a short activity independently when within a structured setting and with prompts

To support your child's learning you may wish to follow some of these learning skills at home.

## **WET/MESSY PLAY**

We understand that there have been some concerns regarding children's clothing after outdoor play. The Early Years curriculum allows us to provide learning experiences for children in all weather conditions. To support your child's learning in the most practical way possible, please ensure that your child has a set of wellington boots and a waterproof jacket in school. You may wish to provide a spare set of clothes that your child can change into before going outside.

## **PE**

Our PE time will continue to be Monday mornings; however children will have access to develop their physical skills through the indoor and outdoor areas. We continue to ask that you ensure a PE kit is in school at all times. A reminder that jewellery is not permitted in school however stud earrings are acceptable if they are covered with plasters provided from home for PE lessons.

## **LOST PROPERTY**

It is vital that all items of your child's clothing are named, including shoes. As personal items are difficult to recognise, it will enable members of the team to identify your child's clothing immediately. If unnamed items of clothing are found, they will be placed in the Lost Property box in the children's cloakroom.

## **SCHOOL COMMUNICATION**

Please check that the office has your correct e-mail address if you have chosen to receive newsletters electronically. Also check with your e-mail account that school emails are enabled and not being filtered into the spam folder. Please continue to check the parents' notice board for additional information. We will happily give copies of this information to parents who are unable to pick up or drop off their child at school. If you wish to speak to members of the Reception Team, we will continue to be available from 8:45-8:55 am and 3:15-3:25 pm. For longer discussions please make an appointment at the office.

Thank you once again for your support throughout this half term and for a positive start to school.

Yours sincerely

The Reception Team

Mr Alletson

Miss Greenwood

Miss Odain

Mrs Reynolds

