

28<sup>th</sup> April 2022

Dear Parents,

It has been lovely to welcome the children back to school for the start of the summer term. I do hope you were all able to spend some time with the children and enjoy the pleasant Spring weather – especially in the first week of the holiday period. This term feels well underway already, and promises to be a very busy one. YR so enjoyed their visit to College Lake yesterday; Y5 are looking forward to travelling to the Globe Theatre next week; and Y6 have the River Dart experience on the horizon. Our children in Y1, Y2, Y4 and Y6 have statutory testing this term (Phonics, KS1 SATs, the times tables test, and KS2 SATs respectively). As always, we will be working with the children to enable them to do their best – these external assessments represent the re-start of national testing following the global pandemic.

The children have been wonderful coming into the playground on their own in the morning this week, information which was shared with you in the last newsletter of the Spring term. This is the first time for two year groups of our younger children due to the pandemic, and it is good to see their independence. Please can I remind all parents that the children are expected into class between 8:25am and 8:35am. It is important that all children experience the start of the day together, so please make every effort to ensure that your children are on time within this window. Towards the end of last term there were an increasing number of children arriving late to class, which is not ideal for them or their peers. Thank you for your co-operation with this.

Please may I also remind parents of children in YR and Y1 to notify the school if your child is going home with someone other than their usual adult. We are aware that children sometimes make their own 'arrangements' without due consultation with yourselves, and for their safety we can only release a child to an adult you have told us may collect your child that day. From Y2 upwards the children are regarded as old enough to know the arrangements you have put in place for them.

Hopefully we will be experiencing some warmer weather in the coming weeks. Please note that our summer uniform allows tailored shorts for both boys and girls if that is your preference. However, given the unpredictability of a British Summer, it is important that all children have an appropriate layer with them each day even if the morning looks promising. May I also remind parents that children who have long hair that hair should be tied back for school, and that hair accessories should be in school colours and close to the child's head. Hair bands increasingly seem to have additional extensions which are not appropriate or safe for the learning environment. Again, thank you for your help with this.

This week has seen the start of after school provision by KidzZone – those children who have attended have told me they enjoyed it and felt comfortable. Any queries regarding after school care must be made direct to KidzZone and not via the school office please. This care was set up at the request of parents, and I hope that enough people will commit to using this provision in order for it to remain viable moving forward.

At the end of this letter is some information from the Department for Education which outlines ways in which parents can support their children with reading. I know that many of you are wonderful at this already, but hope that it will be of interest – even if just to reassure you. There is also an attachment from MK Dons which promotes a Women's

game this coming weekend. They have asked us to share this with you. Mrs Dryburgh, an excellent woodwind teacher who has worked with us for a number of years, has spaces for new children to start to learn. If you are interested in your child learning then please note the information in the attachment.

Thank you to all parents who have paid Curriculum Contributions this year. As you may remember we request a voluntary donation of £10 per child per term which supports our Curriculum Enrichment programme and additional DT resourcing. We are very appreciative of your support, as this enables an enhanced provision for the children. If you are able to support us with this, thank you.

We understand that the PTA will be announcing the winners of the Craft Competition tomorrow via their social media pages. We have requested that they also notify the school so that we can send a message via E-schools communication so that all parents will be aware of the results.

We are all looking forward to the coming term, and to sharing with you the achievements of the children. Just a reminder that – weather permitting - we have our Jubilee Picnic in the diary for Friday 20<sup>th</sup> May at 2:00pm. There will be an exhibition of events across the decades produced by the children in the hall which you will be able to view, some of Y3 are practising hard to present a maypole dance, and you will be able to enjoy your picnic on the field with the children. We do hope that you noted this date and will be able to join the children and staff to celebrate this unique event of our Monarch.

Mrs K. Tamlyn

Head Teacher

## **1. Encourage your child to read**

Reading helps your child's wellbeing, develops imagination and has educational benefits too. Just a few minutes a day can have a big impact on children of all ages.

## **2. Read aloud regularly**

Try to read to your child every day. It's a special time to snuggle up and enjoy a story. Stories matter and children love re-reading them and poring over the pictures. Try adding funny voices to bring characters to life.

## **3. Encourage reading choice**

Give children lots of opportunities to read different things in their own time - it doesn't just have to be books. There's fiction, non-fiction, poetry, comics, magazines, recipes and much more. Try leaving interesting reading material in different places around the home and see who picks it up.

## **4. Read together**

Choose a favourite time to read together as a family and enjoy it. This might be everyone reading the same book together, reading different things at the same time, or getting your children to read to each other. This time spent reading together can be relaxing for all.

## **5. Create a comfortable environment**

Make a calm, comfortable place for your family to relax and read independently - or together.

## **6. Make use of your local library**

Libraries in England are able to open from 4 July, so visit them when you're able to and explore all sorts of reading ideas. Local libraries also offer brilliant online materials, including audiobooks and ebooks to borrow. See [Libraries Connected](#) for more digital library services and resources.

## **7. Talk about books**

This is a great way to make connections, develop understanding and make reading even more enjoyable. Start by discussing the front cover and talking about what it reveals and suggests the book could be about. Then talk about what you've been reading and share ideas. You could discuss something that happened that surprised you, or something new that you found out. You could talk about how the book makes you feel and whether it reminds you of anything.

## **8. Bring reading to life**

You could try cooking a recipe you've read together. Would you recommend it to a friend? Alternatively, play a game where you pretend to be the characters in a book, or discuss an interesting article you've read.

## **9. Make reading active**

Play games that involve making connections between pictures, objects and words, such as reading about an object and finding similar things in your home. You could organise treasure hunts related to what you're reading. Try creating your child's very own book by using photos from your day and adding captions.

## **10. Engage your child in reading in a way that suits them**

You know your child best and you'll know the best times for your child to read. If they have special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) then short, creative activities may be the way to get them most interested. If English is an additional language, encourage reading in a child's first language, as well as in English. What matters most is that they enjoy it.