



## Welcome to the Panda Class Term 1 Newsletter

### Reception Term 1 Autumn 2023



Welcome to a new school year in The Panda Class (Reception). For those of you that are returning to Gaglebrook School, we cannot wait to have you for another academic year and for those of you that are new to Gaglebrook School we really do welcome you and are so looking forward to learning all about you and your children, welcome to the team in our lovely school!

In Reception the children will have the following adults working alongside them:



Mrs Whiskerd

Class Teacher & EYFS Lead



Mrs Robinson

Early Years Practitioner

This is what a typical day in Reception will look like:

Please do arrive promptly for an 8.30 start ready for our morning activities to begin. School finishes at 3.15pm Monday – Thursday, and at 2pm on Fridays.

Here is an example of what a day looks like in Reception:

8:30 Children come into classroom and they complete a morning task e.g. sharing a book, letter and formations tasks, speaking and listening task on the carpet

8:40 Register

8:45 Read Write Inc (Phonics)

9:15 Learning Landscape Time – Where children can explore our learning environment both inside and outdoors, children during this time will also complete adult led activities either as a 1:1 task or within a small group

10:00 Whole School Assembly

10:15 Continuation of “Learning Landscape Time”

11:20 Let’s put things back where they belong time (Tidy Up Time)

11:30 Whole class carpet activity e.g. Jigsaw (PSED), Understanding the World Input, Literacy Input and then prepare for lunch

11:50 – 12:50 Lunch

12:45 Whole class carpet Maths session

1:00 Continuation of “Learning Landscape Time”

2:40 Let’s put things back where they belong time (Tidy Up Time)

2:50 Whole class story time and then prepare for home time

3:15 Home time – Please can we ask parents to be patient at this time when we see the children out as we do need to make sure all children are handed over safely to their parents at the end of the day, this process will speed up as the term progresses.

## **Healthy Snacks**

We are a healthy school and promote healthy snacks. There will be fruit and vegetables available, as well as enjoying some toast during Toast Tuesdays or you are welcome to bring your own alternative fruit or vegetable snack. If you choose to bring grapes or cherry tomatoes, can we please ask for these to be cut in half lengthways prior to bringing them into school. No nuts please!

Each child should have a named drink bottle full of water, in school each day which we will send home each day for you to wash and refill for the following day.

## **The Big Question**

The big question that we will be exploring this term is “Where will our future take us?”. The children will be thinking about themselves, their friends and families and how unique and special we all are while thinking about what they would like to do and be like when they get older. The children will be involved in a range of tasks where they will be talking about how they have changed since being a baby to now and be developing an understanding of a timeline. We will be learning about people who help the children so hoping for some visitors to come into school to talk about how they help people. If you have any contacts please let Mrs Whiskerd know.

The value of the term is ‘respect’, and we will be talking to the children about what this means as well as looking out for it in action and then celebrating it. The one planet principles for the term are “ Equality & Local Economy and Sustainable Transport” and our significant person that we will be learning about is Alan Turing . We will be joining the rest of the school during the first week of term for an Assembly to introduce children to our themes for this term.

During our daily phonics session, the children will get to meet Fred the Frog who will help them learn about letters and sounds which will help the children begin to read and write. We will be sending home phonics videos via Tapestry each week and a letter formation sheet once we start learning letter sounds so you can continue to learn the letter sounds at home with your child.

## **Tapestry**

All children at Gaglebrook Primary School will have an online learning journal under a system called Tapestry. On here, we put pictures and words of your children that demonstrate the learning they are doing in school so they can share it with you at home.

Please do have a look at what your child has been doing and we would appreciate it if you could comment and like the posts so we know you have seen them, as well as uploading your own pictures and telling us about things your child has done, places they have been and loved and things that will make us smile, we enjoy sharing these in school with the children.

**Please can parents check Tapestry every couple of days as we do send out weekly reminders providing you with information you need to know.**

## **A few little reminders.....**

Please do label absolutely everything that comes into school including hats, coats, clothes, water bottles and lunch boxes without names it is impossible to reunite individual children with their belongings.

## **Clothes**

Can we please ask that every child has a spare set of clothes, including underwear and socks, in school each day. These can be kept in school once they have been sent in. If you could keep a named canvas bag or bag for life in your child’s bag for any clothes that need to be changed this will help us to use less single use plastic when sending clothes home. Our learning will involve the children in working indoors and outdoors so please ensure your child is dressed for any weather. A waterproof coat, a jumper/cardigan, spare clothes and wellies are essential. We do have a welly rack where you can store wellies at school to save you carrying them backwards and forwards. Although not essential we would also recommend waterproof trousers and a coat set, which can be easier than an all-in-one for children to use, especially with toileting. You can again keep these in school if it is easier for you as each child has their own box to keep all their belongings in but please remember to name everything!

We would also welcome an art apron for each child too as this means they can do as many messy tasks as they

choose!

## **PE**

Our PE day in Reception is a Wednesday. Please can children arrive in PE kit on this day. PE Kit includes: Plain black shorts / joggers, a plain white top / GB PE top, Black trainers and a plain black jumper / hoodie. The children will have this PE session with Mr Latham.

### **How can I help my child at home?**

We are often asked “ How can I help my child at home?” and for Early Years children one of the key things is to read to them often and encourage a real love of books! Talk about books, what can you see in the pictures? (Some books have amazing details and little surprises hidden in their illustrations, which children love to find!) Which characters do you like and why? What do you think will happen next? We would love for you to record details of the books that you read together, comments that your child makes in their reading record.

The children can gain a sticker once they have read / shared 15 books at home, once they achieve 30 books they can achieve a special reward from Mrs Holloway so please record all reads in reading diaries throughout the year and let's see how many rewards from Mrs Holloway we can all get this year!

### **Becoming Independent**

Please encourage and support your child with being as independent as possible e.g. when washing their hands, going to the toilet, putting on their coat, doing up zips and buttons, putting their shoes on and off and the same with their wellies and using knives and forks when eating at home. We do ask for all children to come into the classroom on their own each morning and for them to carry their own bags and belongings so please do support us with this, we will of course help children at this time when needed.

### **Questions/concerns.**

If you ever have any concerns or questions, please do feel free to come and speak to us at the end of the school day, we have an open-door policy, or request a phone call if it's easier. We are here to help and support you and your child during their Reception year. You can also contact us via [admin@gaglebrook.org.uk](mailto:admin@gaglebrook.org.uk), and it will be passed onto us in the classroom.

We look forward to an amazing year of fun and learning.

Mrs Whiskerd and Mrs Robinson

