

Monday 9th September 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

A very warm welcome to you all! We hope you have had a restful summer and are ready to start the school year. We are looking forward to getting to know your children over the coming weeks so please do keep an eye out for our weekly ClassDojo and website updates to find out what we have been doing in school!

We have now finished our settling in days into Reception and from Monday 9th September, all children will attend school full time. Our classroom doors open at 8:30am so that children can be in class by 8:35am. Please can you do your utmost to ensure your child is here on time as this does affect their attendance. The school day finishes at 3:30pm and children will need to be collected from their classroom doors. On Friday, school finishes at 1:30pm.

We will start this term off with our topic '**It's Good to be Me!**' We will be talking about ourselves, our families and our homes. Our school value this term is 'Kindness'. In Reception, we will be focusing on how we can show kindness to others around us, it would be lovely to hear what children have done at home to show kindness too.

PE and PE kit

PE sessions will start next week and our PE day will be a Wednesday. Please can you ensure your child has a clearly named PE kit in school. Their PE kit should include: white t-shirt, black shorts or joggers, daps/trainers, socks and a plain black jumper or sweatshirt. Some PE lessons will be outside so please bear this in mind. If your child has long hair then they will need to have their hair tied up. If your child wears earrings, they can either be covered up with tape or removed. Please can we ask that hooped earrings are not worn for school; only studded earrings should be worn. It is also worth putting in a spare pair of underwear in case of any wetting accidents.

Water bottles

Please can you provide your child with a clearly named plastic water bottle to use throughout the day. The children can refill their bottles from the tap in the classroom. If you have signed up to Cool Milk then your child will also have a carton of milk to drink in the morning.

Reading

Your child will begin with a Lilac/Pink book. This is a book for you to look at with your child at home. We will expect the children to share their book regularly at

home and be read to/with an adult. Please remember to record this in your child's Reading Record (the date, title of the book and your initials is fine!)

As we begin to teach Phonics your child will begin to bring home books that have words in for them to have a go at reading themselves. In school, we aim to read with your children 3 times a week. The book we read with them will then come home on a Friday for you to share with them over the weekend. This book will then need to be returned on a Monday morning. These guided reading books all have a star on the top right-hand corner so they can be identified easily.

On a Monday, the children will then come home with another reading book of the same level. Please do not worry if your child comes home with a book they have had before, this helps to develop fluency. In addition to your child's reading book, they will also come home with a 'reading for pleasure' book. This is a picture book for you to enjoy reading to your child. These will be changed on Wednesday's but please feel free to read any additional books at home with your child but remember to record them in their Reading Record Book.

The children will be rewarded for the number of times you read at home. When your child reads at home 50 times, they will receive a certificate. When they read 100 times, they will earn a bookmark and when your child reads 150 times, they will get a special badge.

Homework

This year, homework will be regular reading with your child, phonics (as we learn new sounds) and sometimes maths activities.

Mucky Mondays

We will be going on welly walks during the term, usually on a Monday. Due to the nature of Early Years, these days can change so please can your child have a pair of named wellies in school to keep on the welly rack outside the classroom. We will provide your child with waterproofs to wear if needed.

Online Safety

We will be talking to your child about how they can be safe online. At Moredon, we follow our SMART rules. Here they are for your information:

S - Stay SAFE online by not sharing your personal information.

M - Do not MEET anyone who you have only become friends with online.

A - Do not ACCEPT messages and friend requests from people you do not know.

R - Not everything online is RELIABLE. People online are strangers and you can't always trust everything they say.

T - TELL an adult you trust if anything happens online that you do not like.

Healthy Lunches

We encourage a healthy balanced diet and so politely ask that children's lunch boxes contain a healthy lunch at all times. This could be a sandwich, carrot/cucumber/pepper sticks, cheese, fruit and a yoghurt. Children should not be having chocolate bars, fizzy drinks or sweets in their lunch box. These will be given back at home time should they do have them. Small cakes and biscuit based chocolate bars such as a KitKat are allowed. If you would like any other lunch ideas, please do not hesitate to ask.

NO NUTS!

We are a nut free school and have children and staff with nut allergies so please DO NOT send nuts in your child's lunchbox. This also includes peanut butter sandwiches and Nutella sandwiches (If your child has chocolate spread you can buy a milk chocolate spread as an alternative.)

Parent Helpers

We are looking for some parent helpers to come in and support the class with reading, baking, trips, local walks and/or creative activities. If this is something you would like to do then please come and speak to one of us.

A few other notes

- Please can you ensure you bring bookbags in daily. A bookbag is preferred over a big back pack, so they can fit in their class drawers.
- Please join ClassDojo, if you haven't already, using the login you have been sent home.
- Please check ClassDojo for any events that are happening and for letters giving you key information, we will try to give you plenty of notice via Dojo.

Finally, please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any queries or questions. You can contact us via ClassDojo or speak to us at the end of the school day. As always thank you for your continued support. Here's to a great first term!

Mrs Marr Mrs Smith Miss Bentley