

12th September 2008

Dear Parents,

It is a pleasure to welcome you and your children to the Red Class. The first few days of this term have gone by so quickly and the children are delightful, have settled down well and are already getting used to the routines within the class. Starting school can be a very tiring experience for them so please can I ask that they have some quiet evenings over the coming weeks in order to rest and relax as they begin their full time education.

I know you have had a lot of information already, please bear with me while you read this, I hope it will be helpful for you.

Our Theme for this term is 'Festivals and Celebrations' and we will be looking at different areas related to this topic. Occasionally I may ask the class to either bring in different items (e.g. for Science or the Role Play area) or do something at home that will be relevant to our studies, your help and support at these times is invaluable and a great benefit to your child.

Once we get into our stride the reading folders are sent home 3 times a week (Tuesday, Thursday and Friday), the children will have already read, looked at or discussed their books at school. Please take the opportunity to spend 5 minutes with your son/daughter revisiting the book, hearing the story, talking about the pictures, asking questions and reading the texts along with them - especially if they feel unsure. Some of the books have no text; this is fine and a great way to get the children to tell the story using their own words, imagination and ideas. Please sign (initials will do!) the reading record book, it is a great help if we know that the children have read the book again with you, and please feel free to add any comments. This is just another way of keeping good communication going between home and school.

Library books (optional) from the class are changed and sent home on Tuesdays. They may be kept at home for the week but please be careful as sometimes younger brothers and sisters get to these books and they become spoilt, however I'm sure that this won't happen but don't panic if it does! Thank you so much.

The children may sometimes have a number game or literacy activity to do over the weekend and I would be most grateful if it could come back in on the Monday.

We follow the Jolly Phonics programme of Literacy and Number Zoo programme for Numeracy, I try to send home a sheet of paper with the sound/number and action/rhyme that goes with it, it is for your information and will allow you to help your child practise at home and reinforce what we have done at school.

The children are allowed to bring in 1 item from home per week for 'Show and Tell'. There will be opportunities for them to speak in front of the class and I keep a list to ensure that everyone who wants a turn is given one. This year I have allocated Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays for these sessions. However time-tabling requirements and time restrictions will sometimes mean that your child either has to wait until Friday before it is their turn or may not even get a turn until the following week.

May I say a big thank you to everyone for ensuring that all the children's uniform is clearly and permanently named, the varying weather conditions and P.E. sessions mean that the clothes come on and off regularly and it can be a nightmare to sort out jumpers etc at the end of the day. **Please** can I ask that you check regularly to see if names are still visible as they can easily be washed off. It would be great if the children could practise getting dressed or undressed by themselves at home, it will make changing much easier for us all. In addition may we also suggest that the children keep a pair of trainers (with Velcro fastenings if possible) and long jogging bottoms at school to wear when they go out on the field. Thank you.

As part of a Government initiative the children are given a piece of fruit or vegetable every day, there is also a water fountain in the class which the children have access too at any time of the day. They are also encouraged to have drink throughout the day and particularly before and after both play and lunch time sessions so they don't need to bring a water bottle to school unless it is part of their lunch.

Now a plea for volunteers! Regular and reliable support is invaluable in the running of a classroom these days, so if anyone feels that they would like to offer their services in any shape or form (reading, cooking, art and craft, sewing, woodwork, anything!) it would be very much appreciated. We would gladly welcome any Gran or Granddad too. Please come and see me if you can help in any way.

The school produces a Newsletter that comes out every Friday. In it, is information about school events, dates, and notices, please make sure your child has a copy so that you can be well informed about what is going on. If your child is ever absent, I try to name and keep all the letters we send home and give them out on their return.

Finally, thank you for your patience in reading this. My door is always open, please feel free to come in and see me if you have any concerns or information that is relevant to your son/ daughter's well being, it is vital that they should feel happy, relaxed and valued in school.

Your children are lovely, they are well on the way to becoming a super Red Class and I'm sure we will have a wonderful year.

I look forward to meeting you all over the next term.

Yours Faithfully

Mrs Bennesch

PS Our supply of both reasonable quality scrap paper and comics is rather low and if you have access to any we would be more than willing to offer them a good home in Red Class.
Thank you.