Autumn 1 2017

Welcome to Cook Class! We have had a great start getting to know each other, with the children settling in well and exploring their environment with gusto. Our learning theme is Space – you may have already guessed! Please find attached a topic web for the half term, explaining what we will be learning about. We will also begin daily phonics sessions – more information about phonics will be given in a parents’ workshop later in the month.

The children look so grown up in their school uniform! Please ensure that ALL items of clothing, lunch boxes, bags and bottles are named. While we encourage all children to look after their belongings, inevitably things will be lost along the way. We have a lost property box both in the cloakroom, and in the office. Sometimes children take the wrong items home with them, so please be on the look out for these! We have some fabulously interesting resources in our base which can make their way into little pockets. This is absolutely NORMAL so please do not be embarrassed when you return these!

A great deal of our learning in Cook Class is done outdoors. Therefore, when the weather is inclement, please may I ask you to send your child to school with a coat and a pair of wellies. We have a few spare pairs, but not enough for everyone. Any cast offs will be greatly received!

We now use Target Tracker as our online learning journal for Foundation children. Please remember that you can access this from a PC, smartphone, or tablet at home. If you are having trouble accessing this, please let us know and we will sort out new log in details for you. Take a look at regular intervals to see what fantastic things your child has been doing at school. We love to celebrate your child’s learning with you!
Our PE slots are on Mondays and Tuesdays. Please ensure that ALL kit is NAMED and brought in on a Monday, then taken home on a Friday. This way, if there are any last minute changes to our timetable, we are still able to do PE on a different day.

Homework is sent home on Fridays and expected in the following Wednesday. Please place the Homework Logs in the BLUE tray in the cloakroom. Reading books will go home every day with the expectation that every child reads to an adult for 5 minutes a day. Research has long shown the impact this has on a child’s attainment, in all areas of the curriculum! There will be daily phonics activity sheets in addition which will be kept in the children’s phonic folders. I know this can all seem rather daunting in terms of time and energy, for both children and adults! However, I understand all too well the stresses of busy family life, so please do not worry if occasionally it goes by the wayside. Above all, have fun being involved in your child’s learning – there are so many ways to do this as well as homework!

As we are aiming to foster independence and a sense of responsibility in the children, may I kindly ask that Year 1 children now enter the building by themselves and arrange their belongings, as they know how. Foundation children may be accompanied into the cloakroom by their grown-ups at this stage, to help them learn the daily routine. Home School Records and Reading books and records should be placed in the YELLOW tray in the cloakroom every day. Coats, bags and PE kits are kept on their named pegs. Lunch boxes are placed in the GREEN bucket in the cloakroom, and water bottles are stored in the tray on the snack table. This way, they can access what they need at any time. The children are then encouraged to self-register by finding their named rocket and sticking it in the door. This is an important practise at name recognition. The school gates are locked at 9am, after which time late arrivals must sign in at reception.

If for any reason you need to speak to us, please do not hesitate to call us over. Remember that you can also leave us notes in the Home School Record book. If you need to speak to us at greater length about any concerns you have, you are more than welcome to make an appointment.

Thanking you for your support.

The Early Years Team