



Tolsey Class Autumn Term Letter 2017

Dear Parents

Welcome to the Autumn Term.

Mrs. White, Mrs. Gibbs and I are looking forward to the coming weeks where we all settle into our new daily routines and get down to some great work, as we embark upon a super successful year in Tolsey Class. We will have a class meeting for parents at 2.30pm on Thursday 14th September in the classroom.

The classroom is ready with everything the children will need and we expect all to come into school each day with a positive attitude for learning. Please keep lines of communication flowing with us, as we need great links with families in order to have successful learning partnerships.

As we are a new team, some of the expectations and routines may be different from last year so please read on for information on how we will be creating the best learning environment possible for your children.

Good Mornings!

Please allow your child to come into school on their own each morning saying your farewell at the playground gate when it opens at **8.40am**. Mornings should start promptly in the classroom at **8.45am** at desks where we will be having a pre-registration lesson. For urgent messages, please see Mrs. Hunt in the school office who will pass messages straight to the classroom. I will be available to speak to parents at the end of each day and by appointment through Mrs. Hunt for more in-depth discussions, if and when needed. Please try not to come into the cloakrooms at the beginning of the day; we want to promote independence and confidence in the children's own ability to organise themselves.

Food Glorious Food!

Our topic for the autumn term is Food Glorious Food. As always I will be asking the children for their input to ensure work can be child led wherever possible. I attach a curriculum overview to give you a brief taste of our learning across the curriculum for the autumn term.

Reading

We will be monitoring reading very closely and the expectation is that children read at home, to an adult at least 4 times a week and 1:1 with an adult, in school at least once a week in addition to daily guided reading sessions. Their yellow diaries will be checked each week by Mrs. White to ensure they have been signed (by an adult) with comments (from the adult or child) and marked off on a list in the classroom. I will be talking to the children about the importance of this being an absolute priority. Reading is the key to accessing the curriculum fully and gaining the brightest start possible. Please support us in our mission to ensure your child has the greatest of opportunities.

Homework

Homework will commence in Week 2. Each child will have a **Learning Folder**; which will be their responsibility to keep organised. Weekly homework will consist of:

- **Spellings** (Common exception words)
- **Missions** (High Frequency words) - many children have completed missions and will not have this as homework.
- **Times Tables**
- **Occasional additional tasks**

The Learning Folder will contain a separate note inside detailing expectations for completion of work, testing and handing in.

Timetable

A copy of our timetable can be found on the school website. The children will have PE twice a week most weeks; please make sure PE kits are on pegs at all times. We will not have Forest School sessions this term but will be doing lots of outdoor learning so named wellington boots are a must and should be placed on the rack at the end of the veranda.

Classroom Rewards and Sanctions

We are really excited for the term ahead and look forward to celebrating success on a regular basis. In the classroom we will be using our usual good behaviour system; the sunshine, cloud, thundercloud and rainbow. Once we have established our community agreement we will be expecting children to be shining examples in order to keep our team working smoothly. Should behaviour not reflect our agreed rules (as it does from time to time) children will have their names placed onto the cloud and they will miss their break time, when they will be given time and support to reflect and repair. If the thundercloud is ever used then I will need to have a discussion with parents at the end of the day. Our aim is to stay on the sunshine as a team and visit the rainbow for outstanding effort and successes, kindness and maturity. Rainbow visits are rewarded with house tokens and raffle tickets for a weekly draw!

I am so excited to be teaching Tolsey Class and I know we are going to have a superb year together. Please keep me informed of anything I need to know and ask if there is anything you or your child are not sure about and always let me know if anyone is worried or upset. Mrs White, Mrs. Gibbs and I are all dedicated to making school a really positive experience for all. Let's have a great term!

Best wishes,

Mrs Zoë Duff - Senior Teacher

