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Monday, 06 September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

**Re: Acorn Class Welcome Letter**

We are really excited to welcome you and your families to a new year in Acorn Class.

You will have received a letter from Mrs Musty, outlining the start of the day and the end of the day procedures, as well as the days that we will be doing PE and Forest School. This letter is to give you a few extra pieces of information.

If you have any questions or queries please catch us at the end of the day in the playground, or email the school office on [admin@rodmartonschool.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:admin@rodmartonschool.gloucs.sch.uk) and your email will be forwarded to the member of the teaching team on duty.

**Google Classroom and Tapestry**

Year 1 parents: Please make sure that you can access your child’s Google Classroom account. This will be used to outline the weekly homework. We will also use Google Classroom to set work for home learning in the event of pupils needing to self-isolate.

Reception Parents: In the next few days you will receive login details for Tapestry, your child’s on-line learning journey. We will use Tapestry to make observations of the children’s learning during their reception year. We will also use Tapestry to set weekly home work tasks. You will also receive a Google Classroom account which you will need to make sure is activated.

**Superheroes**

Our topic this term is ‘Superheroes.’ A topic web outlining the learning for this term, was sent out with the newsletter and is also available to view on Google Classroom and the Acorn class page of the school website.

**Homework**

As mentioned above homework will be set via Tapestry for reception children and Google Classroom for year 1 children. There will be a spellings/reading activity, and a maths activity each week. Homework will be set on a weekly basis, every Friday.

**Reading**

Reading is a crucial part of your child’s learning in the early years. Your child will start their phonics sessions from the first day of term. Reading books will be sent home within the first week back. The reading books will closely match the sounds that are currently being learnt in the phonics sessions. Homework will also focus on the current sounds being learnt in the phonics sessions. We expect that children read at home on a daily basis. Short, regular sessions are much more beneficial than less frequent extended ones. Five minutes a day, at the start of term when children are still settling in and no doubt tired from their busy days is enough.

Reading books will be changed every Monday and Wednesday. It is recommended that children re read books three times to promote fluency and word recognition, so please do re read the reading books together.

We will shortly invite you to a phonics/reading meeting to discuss how we teach reading in Acorn Class.

**PE and Forest School**

PE will be taught on a Wednesday. Children are to come to school on that day in their PE kit. Forest School will be on a Monday afternoon. Children are to come into school dressed in appropriate clothing. We ask that they wear sturdy footwear and that arms and legs are covered. Wet weather clothing will be required if the weather is forecast to be raining. As we move into the winter, hats, gloves and scarves will be essential.

We look forward to getting to know your children and their families over the next few weeks.

Mrs Cooksley and Mrs Bladon

Acorn Class Teachers