

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2016

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Buttercup Class! Our aim for this newsletter is to give you an overview into what Buttercup class will be learning about this term and hopefully give you some ideas of how you can support your child's learning at home.

Our new Reception children are settling into school brilliantly. Thank you for your support in bringing them into the classroom and helping them feel positive about starting school. The Year 1s have come back from their holiday break ready to learn and it is great to see them all again!

This half term our topic is 'Ourselves'. We will be talking about our holidays and our interests and looking carefully at ourselves to make self-portraits. We will be finding out about our school environment and thinking about the ways we learn. We will create our own 'class charter' to remind us of our rights and responsibilities as Buttercups. In Science we will be learning about the seasons and observing closely as summer turns to autumn.

### English

In English this term we will focus on the story of 'The Little Red Hen'. We hope to learn the story off by heart and to explore it through various activities, including drama, writing, reading and art. We will also use it to help us find out about bread and we will be using recipes to bake our own bread.

Through storytelling, drama and group work we will help the children to develop their speaking and listening skills. When children are very young they develop the skills needed to read and write by talking and exploring language. Please encourage your child to speak correctly and use a range of vocabulary at home; this will help enormously when they are writing.

In Buttercups we do daily Phonics work (teaching the children letters and sounds through activities, games and songs). An adult will hear your child read at least once a week, in both one to one situations and group 'Guided Reading'. Year 1s will bring a new reading book home every week. Please try to read to and listen to your child read *daily* (this doesn't have to always be their school reading book). We will introduce reading books to the Reception children when we feel they are ready. Please don't hesitate to come and discuss this with us if you would like to.

As always, we would be very grateful to any parents that would like to volunteer to listen to independent readers. If you are able to spare some time please come and speak to us. Thank you in advance for your time and effort.

### Maths

Our mathematics lessons will follow the new National Curriculum and all children will be involved in large and small group maths activities. During the Autumn term, the children will

focus on counting forwards and backwards, writing numerals and adding and subtracting using number facts. We will explore shape and describe positions and direction.

We believe that parents help is invaluable in supporting children's learning. Please practise basic maths skills at home through number songs and games as well as using mental maths in everyday life (our homework activities sheet will give you some more ideas).

### RE

We will find out about Harvest Festival. We will learn about where food comes from as well as thinking about sharing and the needs of others.

### PE

For the first half term Reception will be exploring and extending their physical skills in the outside environment. We will be thinking about ways of moving and how to move in safety. Year 1s will have PE sessions on Tuesdays and Fridays. On Fridays the session will be with Daisy class and will be led by Mrs Stafford, our P.E specialist. Please ensure Year 1 have their PE kits in school on these days. If possible, please provide your child with trainers rather than plimsoles for PE lessons and remember a pair of socks if your child is in tights.

All other subjects (ICT, PSICHE, Music, DT and French (Year 1 only)) will be taught through our topic, in accordance to the new National Curriculum guidelines.

### Mud Kitchen Request

We are hoping to develop our 'Mud Kitchen' outside. This is a great space for children to explore sensory play and pretend play, which in turn will support their communication skills and fine motor development. If you have any metal or wooden kitchen utensils (spoons, bowls, pans, whisks) or even a play kitchen that you no longer need, we would love to have them.

### Collecting your children

Please always let us know in advance if someone different will be picking up your child or if they are going to a friend's house. We can not let them go unless we have already had your consent.

Finally, please feel free to come and talk to us any time about your child or if you have any suggestions, or questions. The end of the day is usually the best time to catch us or you are always welcome to make an appointment.

Yours Sincerely

Miss Hunka and Mrs Cotton

Miss Hunka teaches alternate Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays  
Miss Cotton teaches Mondays, Tuesday and alternate Wednesdays