



4th September 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians

Welcome Rabbit (Nursery & Reception) Class Parents

I hope you have all had a lovely summer holiday. We are really looking forward to getting settled into nursery and school properly, let's hope we can have a more 'normal' year! The children have managed so well with coming into the setting to enjoy our teddy bear's picnic and tiger's tea party. They have been happy, smiley and seemingly as pleased to be 'getting on with it' as we are. We really look forward to getting to know you and your children over the coming weeks. Please check back and see when your 1:1 appointment is as this will be a really good chance for us to chat – please call the office or ask at collection if you are unsure. Next week (w/b 7th) the Reception children are in for mornings only 8.45 – 11:45 and the following week (w/b 14th) they are in for afternoons only 12:00 – 3:00. These sessions will not cover lunch time, please ensure your child has their lunch at home. Nursery children commence their normal hours next week (w/b 7th).

Below is some important information about the routines and class practices we have:

Staff in Rabbit Class

I (Mrs Turner) am the teacher in Rabbit Class. Mrs Pyke, Mrs Hanney and Mrs Cundick are the class teaching assistants and will support learning in the class. On Fridays Mrs Pyke, who is also a qualified Early Year's Teacher, will lead the class from 10:30 onwards whilst I have some time to fulfil some of my leadership responsibilities.

No Nut School

A reminder that we are a no nut school. We have several children in school this year who are severely allergic to nuts. Please ensure that all food items coming into school have no nuts or nut products in them. We appreciate your support in this matter.

Snacks

Please provide your child with a healthy snack for their morning break (e.g. a piece of fruit or vegetable). In Early Years children are provided with free fruit in school and we are due to receive a delivery next week but in the meantime, we kindly ask that you provide this snack. Sometimes the children prefer their own snack too.

PE kits

Whilst the rest of the school are coming in wearing their PE kits, we are asking that Reception children (not nursery) have a PE kit in school. Their PE day is Friday, but it's useful if it can be kept in school. We are also happy for a change of clothes to be in school on their peg – if you think your child may have any toilet accidents – however, we would rather they didn't take bags back and forth between home and school.

New Close Primary School

30 Imber Road, Warminster, Wiltshire BA12 9JJ

Telephone 01985 212304

Email office@newclose.wilts.sch.uk

Swimming

We are still waiting on guidance regarding swimming sessions. We will inform all parents of the outcome.

Homework & Reading Expectations

In Early years, we don't have homework as such but we do encourage you to read with your child at least 5 times a week. All the children (Nursery & Reception) will have a book from our Oxford Tree Reading Scheme. We will be allocating your child a level and book by the end of next week. Children should be heard read at least 5 times a week and a comment should be left in their home/school diaries. We will check these each week. We encourage that you share stories with your children as this is very beneficial for their reading progress and will help them learn to read for pleasure. This will begin with sharing a book, but as they progress through early years, they will begin to be able read some of the words and recognise the letters themselves. Once we start phonics teaching, Reception children will be sent home with the phonics that we have learnt that week, these will also be on our class website page. Towards the middle of the year Reception children will start to bring words home to learn, these will also be on the website page.

Reading Races

At New Close we encourage our children to take part in the school reading races. Reception children will bring home their first reading race when they get their new book. Every time your child reads at home they can colour and date a spot, and complete activities at key points. Completed reading races should be returned to school and children will receive a reward.

Reward systems

Reception will have been given a house in which they belong to: Longleat, Stourhead or Wilton. They will be working to earn house points for their house. They will get a small prize for every 10 house points they personally achieve. We also have a weather related reward system. All children start on the rainbow, if they do something super special they will be moved to the sun. They will come home with a piece of paper with a sun on it, so you'll know that they have done something really well. We also have a cloud for when rules are not followed (although verbal reminders will be given first). They will try, very quickly, to return to the rainbow. We will ensure regular contact means that you know if there are any issues.

Communication

We appreciate that due to COVID-19 restrictions, face to face meetings are not possible. Email is an effective way to communicate with us and we can set up telephone conversations if needed. For urgent messages, please call the school office.

ct@newclose.wilts.sch.uk – Mrs Turner

Yours sincerely

Mrs Turner
Rabbit class teacher