

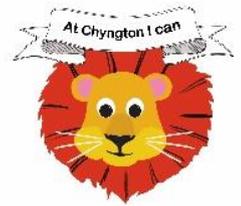


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12th September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

### **Newsletter Term 1**

Welcome to you and your lovely children. We are so excited to get to know you all this term and to begin our first topic called 'All About Me'. This topic has an overarching key question 'How can I be the best that I can be?' Over the summer you have made a chatterbox to share in class, thank you for taking the time to do this. We are looking forward to sharing them together to develop our language and listening skills.

Over the next three weeks we will be exploring and talking about what we need to be ready to begin school. We will be basing our learning on books including *The Lion Inside* and *The Koala Who Could* to discuss our school motto of 'I can' and our school rules of 'be safe, be kind and be ready to learn'. Children will also be sharing their experiences about home, family and some of their favourite things. Towards the end of the term we will also be reading *The Rainbow Fish* and *Elmer*. These texts touch on the importance of being ourselves and celebrate how each one of us is special and unique. We will be establishing our identity as a class, Reception team and school. We will start thinking about how we can work together to enable us to become confident, competent and independent learners. We will work on settling in and establishing a routine. Children are expected to come into class on their own in the morning so will say goodbye to you at the gate or door with the support of their teacher or teaching assistant.

On Thursdays both Miss Martin and Miss Robertson will be out of class for half of the day. This will be covered by Mrs Deering-Foster, our qualified cover teacher. Miss Robertson will also be out of class for an additional day each week (currently Wednesdays) for her role as Inclusion Assistant. This will be covered by Mrs Parle. If you need to contact either teacher while they are out of class, please use dojo.

In the first few weeks we will be carrying out baseline assessments to see where your child is at and where we need to take them next. This is so exciting for us as we get to really know your children and see how much they already know! This year we will be working alongside the government provided baseline as well as conducting our own. These are not tests but a chance for your child to spend some 1:1 time with their teacher and show us how amazing they already are!

In the first term of school we will be teaching Phase 1 of phonics and we will quickly move onto Phase 2. The first letters we teach are s,a,t,p,i,n. Phonics is taught first thing in the morning every day and we will keep you regularly updated with our progress. We follow the Letters and Sounds scheme and use the Jolly phonics songs to help us learn each sound. We also introduce the Read Write Inc. letter formation rhymes.



In Numeracy we will be exploring the foundations of number and focusing on numbers 1-5. We start to introduce Numicon and other concrete resources alongside our maths mastery teaching of Numeracy. We will work on recognising numerals, counting confidently and number facts.

We will be teaching PE once a week. Dolphins and Starfish both have PE on Wednesday morning. For this your children will need red shorts and a white t-shirt. We do not need plimsolls yet as PE will take place in the school hall this term but they are welcome to wear plimsolls if they would prefer. We will be focussing on big gross motor movements and fine motor control. **Please ensure that your child comes to school already in their PE kit on their PE day.** They do not need uniform to change into after but may wish to wear their school jumper.

Your child will be read with twice a week and this may be with the class teacher or teaching assistant. This may be 1:1, in small guided reading groups or during child initiated times. We will work on many skills and reading strategies. It is essential for you to read at home with your child. We recommend 10 minutes daily and also ask that you record their reading progress in a reading diary that will be given to you (to be kept in your child's bag daily). This is very important as your input will support our assessments. Your child will begin the year by exploring books through pictures and then move on to recognising letters, words and sentences. Your child will also be able to take home a coloured reading book matched to their reading ability. The children will be asked to change their books during reading sessions and will be supported to do so by their teachers. Please look after these books as we do not have a large supply and your child will only be asked to change their book when they have returned the previous one.

We will be recording your child's progress throughout the year using a learning journal. We also have a WOW slip that gets sent home for you to record any achievements and significant progress your child makes at home. You can also send these wow moments to us via dojo! We will celebrate the WOW slips at school and will add them to the journals. An example of what you would write on a WOW slip may be that your child learnt how to ride their bike this week or your child can now swim! Please feel free to ask us for additional copies of these throughout the year as we will have them readily available.

Thank you so much for your understanding during a very different transition this year. We can't wait to get to know you all. If you have any questions please feel free to speak with us on the gate, via dojo or request a meeting at the office.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Robertson and Miss Martin  
EYFS teachers

