



Holy Trinity C of E Primary School

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Dear Parents,

Welcome to the new school year! We very much hope that you and your child are beginning to settle well into school and our routines. To ensure things run effectively this year we hope the following information is useful and will give you a better picture of how you can help your child to make the most of their time in Cygnet Class.

We will be basing our work this term on the topic 'All about me' and then 'Fairy Tales and Festivals' after the half term break. This theme will filter through many of our activities as part of a creative curriculum devised to capture the children's imagination and to inspire their learning.

This term we will be learning to...

English

recognise and recall phase 2 and 3 phonic sounds

use phonics sounds to help with reading

give meaning to marks they make

form letters

write own name

use sounds for writing

Maths

sing number and counting songs

say how many there are in a small group of objects by 'just seeing' and knowing straightaway without needing to count (subitising)

develop counting skills in order to identify how many there are in a set that cannot be subitised

use the language of comparison to describe sets of objects

gain a deep understanding of 5 and explore its composition

explore the concept of 'whole' and 'parts'

verbally count to larger numbers

compare measure and create patterns

identify shapes in the environment

Communication and language

listen whilst sitting on the carpet during whole class sessions

listen to stories and respond with relevant comments, questions or actions

follow instructions

listen to and share ideas with talk partners or a small group

ask and answer questions in group discussions

add detail to stories and explanations

learn and use new vocabulary

join in with rhymes and songs

Personal, social and emotional development

include others in our games and activities

take turns and share toys

know what good learning looks like

identify and express our feelings and emotions
begin to consider the feelings of others

Understanding the world

begin to make sense of their own life story and family
know about the past through settings, characters and events encountered in books read in class and storytelling
explore different celebrations around the world
know and describe the signs of autumn and winter
use all their senses in hands-on exploration of natural materials

Expressive art and design

join in with singing new songs
explore sounds
create pictures and patterns using a wide variety of materials
use role play to explore different places and people
use media and materials confidently and for a purpose

Physical development

use our bodies to move in interesting ways
hold a pencil properly when writing
show good control and coordination in large and small movements

RE

listen to and share a simple Bible story
know about Christmas and why we celebrate it

Reading

Your support with daily reading and the discussion of texts at home really helps your child to progress in this specific area of the curriculum. They will soon bring home a phonics book from our Bug Club scheme. The phonics books contain sounds that your child already knows or has been introduced to at school. The aim is to be able to read these books fluently and independently so please encourage lots of re-reading to help with this and to support good comprehension. Books will be changed every Monday and Thursday. Please make a note in the reading diary to let us know if your child has shared the book with you and how they got on. Reading and sharing a book each evening will really help to support the work we are doing in school. We will hear your child read at least once a week but your help in ensuring they are reading regularly is invaluable.

Homework

Alongside daily reading, Reception children will soon be set additional homework activities each Friday. This will usually consist of a phonics / handwriting activity and a short maths activity which consolidates work covered during the week.

P.E.

We will have our P.E. lessons on Tuesday and Thursday mornings this term. On these days, please send your child to school wearing their school P.E. kit. The school website has details of both indoor and outdoor kit. It would be most helpful if you could ensure that all items, clothing and otherwise, are clearly named. Please ensure that your child always has a named water bottle in school too.

Attendance

In line with the DfE, it is our aim that the attendance of pupils at our school is as close to 100% as possible. An attendance figure of less than 90% (**which equates to a child missing half a day of school every week**) is significant; in these circumstances, a child is classified as **persistently absent**.

While we understand that there are genuine reasons, notably illness, which mean it is not appropriate to send your child to school, as I am sure you can appreciate, any time away from the classroom is incredibly disruptive. A

lesson missed puts a child at a disadvantage especially when that lesson falls within a sequence of planned learning activities. It can increase anxiety and in some cases affect social interactions and friendship groups.

In addition, research has been carried out which shows a clear link between attendance and attainment at all key stages: [The link between attendance and attainment in an assessment year](#)

In summary, from the data analysed: at KS2, pupils who attended school nearly every day in Year 6 (with an attendance rate of 95-100%) were 1.3 times more likely to achieve the expected standard in reading, writing and maths compared to pupils who only attended 90-95% of the time. **This means missing just 10 days of Year 6 reduced the likelihood of reaching the expected standard by around 25%.** Pupils who attended nearly every day were 1.8 times more likely to achieve the standard than persistently absent pupils who only attend 85-90% of the time (relating to 4 -6 weeks more time in school).

The trend continued into Year 11: at KS4, pupils who attended school nearly every day in Year 11 (with an attendance rate of 95-100%) were 1.9 times more likely to achieve the Grade 5 in English and Maths GCSE compared to pupils who only attended 90-95% of the time (relating to up to 2 weeks more time in school over the course of a year) and 3 times more likely than persistently absent pupils who only attend 85-90% of the time (relating to 4 - 6 weeks more time in school). **This means missing just 10 days of year 11 reduced the likelihood of achieving grade 5 in English and Maths by around 50%.**

Therefore, we encourage you to send your child to school unless they have a temperature, are vomiting, have diarrhoea or any of the contagious illnesses as outlined in NHS guidance: [Is my child too ill for school? - NHS](#)

A request for term time absence for holidays is not permitted. Please refer to the RBWM term time dates that are on our website and that you have been sent a copy of: [School term dates 2026/27 | School term dates | Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead](#)

Punctuality:

Arriving promptly in the morning is also important as it will ensure a positive start to the day for your child. The school gate opens at 8:45am **with the expectation that every child has passed through by 8:55am.** The gate will be locked at 9am at which point your child will be marked late.

For a child arriving late, entering a classroom where their peers have already begun the day can be trauma-inducing. Their start to the day is less calm and it is likely they will miss out on early morning activities designed to recap, motivate and engage. Therefore, we encourage you to ensure your child arrives at school as close to 8:45am as possible.

If you wish to talk to us at any time about specific matters, please make contact through the office. In the meantime, you can find out what your child has been learning at school by reading the class weekly newsletter which will be posted on Google Classroom every Friday.

While this and others that follow are class newsletters containing specific information relevant to our class, on a Friday the school newsletter will be emailed to you and posted on our website. Please find a moment to read both weekly newsletters as they will contain important information to help you navigate the term. Thank you.

Thank you for your support and we look forward to a happy year ahead.

Emma Weller and Amy Buckley