

# Weekly Update

## Happy Lunchtimes



Our Happy Lunchtimes have started this week. Our new storage sheds are filled with different equipment for the children to play with at lunchtime. It has been wonderful to see the children enjoying the new resources and we have had calm purposeful playtimes as a result. We will be continuing to update these resources over the next few months. We are currently looking for any donations of children's dressing up costumes to add to our Happy Lunchtime sheds. If you are able to help, please hand in any donations to your child's class teacher or to Mrs Holmes on the playground in the morning.



## Action Required



Please can all parents complete our consent questionnaire by **Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September**. The consent form includes permission for staff to share photographs on Class Dojo and social media. The survey will close at **9am**.

<https://forms.office.com/e/hDz7x1b7JG>

## Homework



Children in Year 1 and Year 2 will have received their homework book today. Inside will be a homework menu for the half term with a selection of activities to complete. We would like the children to complete at least 3 of the challenges from the box on the right. There are also 3 challenges in the blue boxes, we would like the children to complete these challenges every week. The children will be able to use their homework book to record the activities. The challenges in pink are optional and are a way to extend the learning if your child completes the task with ease. There will be suggested dates for the homework tasks to align with when topics are being taught.

Homework books will be handed in on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> October.

Classroom staff will look at each piece of homework and will stamp the homework to say they have seen it. One piece of homework will have a handwritten comment on it and may provide some feedback. A number of Homework Heroes will be selected each half term to acknowledge the children's efforts in completing their homework. Staff will be awarding Homework Heroes based on the children's creativity, independence, mastery of skills and their use of character muscles.

## Reading

Reading books will be changed once a week and the children will receive two reading books for the week.



Reading book changing day	Year Group
Tuesday	Year 1
Wednesday	Reception
Friday	Year 2

We will be continuing with our Reading Incentive this year. Children will colour in a circle on the tracker when they have read each day this would need to be for around 10 minutes. Only one circle can be coloured in each day and staff will be checking reading journals for parent and carer comments to correlate with these. Children in Pre-school can use the tracker for choose books and can colour in a circle each day an adult shares a story with them.

We will be hearing children read at least once a fortnight and staff will write in the reading journal when they have heard a child read. Please can we ask that reading books and reading records are in the children's book bags each day.

## PPA



We would like to provide you with an update regarding our approach to Planning, Preparation, and Assessment (PPA) time for our teachers this year. As you may know, PPA time is a crucial part of our teachers' schedules, allowing them the necessary time to plan lessons, prepare materials, and assess the children's progress. This time is covered by other staff members to ensure continuity in your child's education.

While PPA cover is timetabled each week, there may be instances where the cover is provided at different times. This flexibility allows us to manage staff absences efficiently, ensuring that your child's learning experience remains uninterrupted.

This year, we aim to reduce the use of external supply teachers to cover absences. Instead, we will prioritise using staff members who are already part of our school community. These staff members are familiar faces to the children and are well-versed in our school's routines, which we believe will benefit the children by providing a more consistent and stable learning environment.

Our experienced cover supervisors, Mrs. Uddin and Mrs. Ridgeway, will take on the majority of absence cover duties. Their familiarity with the children and school procedures ensures that the quality of education remains high, even in the absence of the regular class teacher.

## Important Dates

Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> September	Celebration Assemblies for Year 1 and 2 start
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> September	Individual School Photographs - ZigZag Photography
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> September	Macmillan Coffee Morning – Meet our Senior Leadership team. More information coming soon
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> October	Parents' Evening – More information coming soon
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> October	Parents' Evening – More information coming soon
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> October	School closes for half term.