

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

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Reception Autumn 1 Newsletter

8th September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

We would like to welcome you back for a new term, and a special welcome to all the children and parents joining our Westfield Family. We hope that you had a wonderful summer and are well rested for the term ahead. We are looking forward to teaching the children and hope they all settle in quickly.

Curriculum

Our learning this half-term will be a combination of adult-led activities and play-based learning. This is planned for and adapted in response to children needs and interests. Our 'Talk for Writing' text will be "The Little Red Hen" and after half term, 'The Gingerbread Man'. In Maths, we will be focusing on counting, subitising and numeral recognition as well as developing mathematical vocabulary to describe shapes and compare measures. In PSHE we will be focusing on the topic "Being Me In My World". We will be learning about the seasonal changes as well as Harvest to develop our understanding of the world.

Clothing

Please can you ensure that **all** your child's clothes are labelled and that your child is made aware that they are responsible for their own belongings. Please ensure that they bring a coat every day, even if the weather looks good as this can often change.

Forest School

Our Forest School sessions will take place on **Wednesdays**. Please can children arrive in school in their Forest School clothes. This includes: weatherproof coat with hood, long sleeved T-Shirt and long trousers. We will change into our muddy shoes/wellies outside before starting the session. The muddy shoes/wellies can be kept on site. We also recommend a spare pair of socks that children can change into if they get wet.

PE

PE will be taking place in Reception on **Thursdays**. We ask that the children come into school dressed in their PE kit. This should include a blue short sleeved top, black or dark shorts and Velcro trainers. During our PE sessions we will be learning about finding a space, moving around the hall safely and exploring different ways of moving our body.

Voluntary contributions

We ask for a voluntary contribution of £5 per term, which helps us to cover the cost of providing cooking and playdough ingredients. Contributions can be made online via the Arbor Parent Portal. If you are having trouble accessing Arbor, please contact the school office.

Book bags and reading books

Your child will shortly be given a school reading book to practise at home. All children have now received from W1SPA one of our smaller book bags with the top flap, to carry reading books to and from school each day. Key rings are great for helping your child to recognise their book bag, however please ensure that your child only has ONE key ring attached to their book bag.

Please DO NOT put water bottles in book bags as this leads to very soggy books!

Morning drop off

We are really pleased with how the children are coming into school each day and the soft start each morning, allowing us to personally welcome the children and give them time to settle in the classroom which is working really well. We appreciate your support and patience if you find you end up in a queue for a few moments. If you ever need to catch a member of the team for a brief chat, please indicate to us and we can either pop out and speak to you briefly or arrange a more convenient time if a longer conversation is needed.

End of the school day

Similarly to the morning, thank you for working with us while we get the children ready and out to you. This will speed up and become a much quicker process and already, we are seeing that the children are getting the hang of the routines we have put in place.

Snacks

All Reception children will receive a free fruit or vegetable snack so you will not need to send in a snack for your child.

Finally, getting to know your children so far has been a pleasure and we are looking forward to the year ahead in Reception. Thank you again for your support in helping the children settle into their new class and for many their new school. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to catch one of us as we will be happy to help.

Kind Regards

Mrs Nichols, Mrs Williams, Mrs Su and Mrs Bray

Key Dates for your diary:

EYFS Reading & Phonics Coffee Morning – Thursday 19th September
Day of Languages – Tuesday 26th September
Tempest Photography (Individual Photos) – Wednesday 27th September
Macmillan Coffee Morning – Friday 29th September
INSET Day – Friday 6th October
Parents Evening – Tuesday 17th and Wednesday 18th October
Half-Term – Monday 23rd October to Friday 27th October
Open Learning Morning – Friday 3rd November
Flu Vaccinations – Thursday 9th November
Cool to be Kind Week – Monday 13th to Friday 17th November
Children in Need – Friday 17th November
INSET Day – Friday 24th November
INSET Day – Monday 27th November
EYFS Christmas Assembly – Friday 8th December
Child Shows Parent – Tuesday 12th December
Christmas Lunch – Tuesday 19th December