

Learning and Teaching News – Autumn Term 2020

EYFS Team

We hope you have all had a lovely summer break and enjoyed all the hot weather.

First of all we would like to introduce the EYFS team; Mrs Keenlyside is the Dun class teacher and Team Leader. Miss Hathaway and Miss Morris are the Loddon class teachers, and Miss Phillips will be teaching Dun class as well. You will also meet Mrs Mitchell and Mrs Howell who will be covering the classes over the year, as well as supporting us at other times. We have three teaching assistants supporting the children's learning; Mrs Von Der Recke, Miss O'Callaghan and Miss Varndell. Our Early Years Foundation Stage works very much as one unit and this will mean that your child will work with all the adults and children within both classes.

Topics

We very much choose our topics based around the children's interests. Some of the possible topics we will cover this term include:

- Ourselves and our Bodies
- Celebrations and Festivals

The selection of each topic and its length is dependent on the children's interests and therefore may branch off into different areas.

Animal Friends

You may be starting to hear your child talking about some very special animals within our EYFS area, so I thought I would take this opportunity to explain who they are and why they are so special. We have Freya the Frog, Sally the Swan and Barry the Beaver. All three characters demonstrate a positive learning attitude and are therefore referred to within our teaching. Freya the Frog always wants to jump onto the next lily pad, leap to the next challenge and therefore reach her next goal. Sally the Swan holds her neck up high and is proud of what she has achieved and lastly, Barry the Beaver never gives up, keeping on going even if it's a tricky challenge. These characters relate to our Growth Mindset Learning Behaviours and help us to promote a positive learning attitude for the children.

Reading Books

We will be issuing reading books in week 3 or 4, and will start with picture books; helping the children to understand the structure of stories, and develop their story telling skills. Once they are confident story tellers, we will introduce word books. These will be changed once they have been read several times (at least 3), as this helps build children's letter and sound recognition, blending, fluency and most importantly – their reading confidence. As the term goes on you may notice a second book being sent home. This is their guided reading book which they have read within their phonics sessions at least 2 – 3 times. Please encourage the children to show you what they have learnt and read this book to you. This book is to help develop their fluency and comprehension. We expect the children to read at home at least 5 times per week to ensure that their reading develops in line with EYFS expectations. Please record a quick comment in their Reading Record to let us know that you have read with your child – we use this to help us assess when they need to change their book. Reading may only take 5 – 10 minutes but will make a significant difference!

Please ensure your child has their book bag in school every day as we hear readers throughout the week and put letters and other communication into the book bags to be sent home to you. We will hear your child read individually, as well as in group reading and phonic sessions. We work as a team in Foundation so your child may be heard read by their teacher, the other class teacher or one of the teaching assistants.

Outdoor Clothing

Your child will be using the outside area, the playground and the rest of our school grounds in all seasons, whatever the weather. To enable the children to make the most of these opportunities please make sure that they have a named pair of wellies and a waterproof coat every day.

PE

Following the letter from Mr Prebble regarding our Covid precautions, please can you ensure that your child comes in to school on a Wednesday wearing their PE kit, starting on Wednesday 16th Sep.

Independence

We teach the children that it is their job to look after their belongings and we always have adults in the area to support them with this if needs be.

We are really looking forward to the term ahead and all the exciting things your child will participate in.

If you have any problems or questions please do not hesitate to come and speak to us at the end of the day.

Warmest regards,

Mrs Keenlyside, Miss Morris, Miss Phillips, Miss Hathaway and the Early Years Team

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Year 1 and 2 – KS1

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been lovely to see all the children be able to return to school after such a challenging time. We hope that you were able to enjoy the time with your children, and that they are refreshed and ready for the term ahead. We are pleased to welcome Mr Churchill, a student teacher to our team, and are looking forward to an exciting year.

Teaching Staff

Our teaching team is as follows:

Hart: Miss. Annie Finn (Yellow Team Leader)

Thames: Miss. Leanne Henly

Kennet: Mrs. Alison Webb

Emmbrook: Miss. Olivia Churchhouse

PPA Cover: Mrs Fiona Morrissey, Mrs Sarah Mitchell and First for Sport Coaches

We are joined by some highly experienced and skilled Teaching Assistants: Mrs. Jill Bell, Mrs. Jackie Twine, Mrs. Jo Green and Mrs. Jacqui Soper, Mrs Caitlyn Carter

Every week each teacher will have time out of the classroom for planning, preparation and assessment (PPA).

Teacher	Day(s)	Covered by
Miss Finn	Tuesday and Friday pm	FFS, Mrs Morrissey and Mrs Mitchell
Miss Henly	Tuesday pm	FFS and Mrs Morrissey
Mrs Webb	Monday pm	FFS and Mrs Mitchell

Miss Churchhouse	Monday pm	FFS and Mrs Mitchell
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Reminders

Uniform: A pair of plain black shoes, dark grey/black trousers/shorts (boys and girls) or an appropriate length skirt, white shirt or polo shirt tucked in and a Rivermead sweatshirt or cardigan for when it gets colder. Longer hair must be tied back and the children should be smartly dressed to set an example to the younger children. A coat is also needed for wet and colder weather. Children are allowed to wear a pair of plain stud earrings and a watch, but no other jewellery is allowed (unless for religious/cultural reasons); fake tattoos or nail varnish are not allowed.

Things your child will need to have in school:-

Reading book - once all children have been given new books reflecting their current book band/phonic level.

KS1 Reading Records- Children will be expected to hand in their reading records to be checked daily. The aim of these is to monitor children's reading at home. Comments must include a date, book title, pages read and any additional information that you wish to inform your child's teacher about.

Bottle of water

Healthy snack - (if they wish).

PE kit - Rivermead t-shirt, black shorts, a separate pair of outdoor exercise trainers, a sweatshirt for when it gets colder and tracksuit bottoms. Children will not be able to wear their Rivermead jumper or black shoes when taking part in PE for health and safety reasons. Hair must be tied back from the face.

****Children will need to come into school already in their PE kits on their PE days.****

Year Group	Day(s)
Year 1	Monday and Wednesday
Year 2	Tuesday and Thursday

Homework

Reading

In Yellow Team, our children are fortunate to have access to a large variety of banded books to improve their reading ability at home.

As part of our homework expectations, we would like the children to be reading regularly. This will be monitored daily by the class teachers as this benefits the children by:

- developing their reading speed;
- embedding their phonic knowledge;
- improving their comprehension;
- promoting a love of reading.

Reading needs to happen at least **four** times a week for at least 5-10 minutes per session and should be recorded in the reading record.

Maths

In Yellow Team, our children are fortunate to have access to a range of online resources to support their learning in mathematics.

As part of our homework expectations, we would like the children to be accessing these resources regularly. These resources will be monitored by the maths class teachers as they benefit the children by:

- developing their mental arithmetic speed;
- embedding their times table knowledge;
- promoting an enjoyment of maths.

Year 1

Maths homework will not begin until October half-term and you will receive information about this closer to the time.

Year 2

Mathletics **or** Times Table RockStars should be accessed three times a week for 10 minutes each session, once to complete weekly homework tasks set by the class teacher on a Thursday and twice to complete an activity of your child's choice.

Username and passwords can be found in your child's reading record by **Friday 11th September**.

As a reminder, the websites we are subscribed to are:

Mathletics - <https://www.mathletics.com/uk/>

Times Table RockStars - <https://beta.ttrockstars.com/>

If you need any support accessing any of these resources, please do not hesitate to speak to your child's maths class teacher.

The spelling list attached outlines the words that children are expected to be able to spell for children in Year 1 and 2. Supporting your child at home with these spelling when possible will greatly benefit them in school.

Looking forward to working with you over the forthcoming year,

If you have any further questions or queries, we will be more than willing to discuss them with you. Please email or phone the office to do this.

Warmest regards,

Miss Finn

Miss Henly

Mrs Webb

Miss Churchhouse

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Year 3 and 4 – LKS2

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been lovely to see all the children be able to return to school after such a challenging time. We hope that you were able to enjoy the time with your children, and that they are refreshed and ready for the term ahead. We are pleased to welcome Miss Beard and Miss Finch to our team, and are looking forward to an exciting year.

Our teaching team is as follows:

Y3: Mr Paul Rumble (Red Team Leader) and Miss Emily Beard

Y4: Miss Laura Green and Miss Natasha Finch

PPA Cover: Mrs. Rebecca Bye Mrs Fiona Morrissey and First for Sport Coaches

We are joined by some highly experienced and skilled Teaching Assistants: Mrs. Denise Macedo, Miss. Emma Macedo, Mrs. Anne Hunter and Mrs. Lynda Fulbrook

Every week each teacher will have time out of the classroom for planning, preparation and assessment (PPA).

Teacher	Day(s)	Covered by
Mr Rumble	Tuesday and Wednesday pm	Mrs Sloan and Miss Bye/First For Sports
Miss Beard	Wednesday pm	Miss Bye/First For Sports
Miss Finch	Friday pm	Mrs Morrissey/ First For Sports
Miss Green	Friday pm	Mrs Morrissey/ First For Sports

Some reminders:

Uniform: A pair of plain black shoes, dark grey/black trousers/shorts (boys and girls) or an appropriate length skirt, white shirt or polo shirt tucked in and a Rivermead sweatshirt or cardigan for when it gets colder. Longer hair must be tied back and the children should be smartly dressed to set an example to the younger children. A coat is also needed for wet and colder weather. Children are allowed to wear a pair of plain stud earrings and a watch, but no other jewellery is allowed (unless for religious/cultural reasons); fake tattoos or nail varnish are not allowed.

Things your child will need to have in school:-

Reading book - once all children have been given new books reflecting their current book band level

KS2 Reading Records- The aim of these is to monitor children's reading at home and will be checked daily. Comments must include a date, book title, pages read and any additional information that you wish to inform your child's teacher about. Please contact the team via email if you are unsure how to use these.

Bottle of water

Healthy snack - (if they wish).

PE kit - Rivermead t-shirt, black shorts, a separate pair of outdoor exercise trainers, a sweatshirt for when it gets colder and tracksuit bottoms. Children will not be able to wear their Rivermead jumper or black shoes when taking part in PE for health and safety reasons. Hair must be tied back from the face.

****Children will need to come into school in already in their PE kits on their PE days.****

Teacher	Day(s)
Mr Rumble	Wednesday and Thursday
Miss Beard	Wednesday and Thursday
Miss Green	Tuesday and Friday
Miss Finch	Tuesday and Friday

Homework

All children are expected to read at home at least **four** times a week. Reading records will be checked by a teacher or teaching assistant daily throughout the week.

Maths homework will be set on Mathletics on a Thursday and should be completed by the following Monday. Additionally, children will be expected to use TT Rockstars as often as possible. Children were given these usernames and passwords by the end of the second week. Please email the office for your child's class teacher if you do not receive them.

Looking forward to working with you over the forthcoming year,

If you have any further questions or queries, we will be more than willing to discuss them with you. Please email or phone the office to do this.

Mr Rumble Miss Green Miss Beard Miss Finch

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Year 5 and 6 – UKS2

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been lovely to see all the children be able to return to school after such a challenging time. We hope that you were able to enjoy the time with your children, and that they are refreshed and ready for the term ahead. We are pleased to welcome Miss Scott to our team, and are looking forward to an exciting year.

Our teaching team is as follows:

Yangtze: Miss. Claire Southerton (Orange Team Leader)

Amazon: Miss. Emma Seymour

Nile: Miss. Gemma Beale

Congo: Miss. Hollie Scott

PPA Cover: Mrs. Rebecca Bye, Mrs Fiona Morrissey and First for Sport Coaches

We are joined by some highly experienced and skilled Teaching Assistants: Mrs Vicki Thompson, Mrs Lizzie McDonald, Miss Lizzie Davies, Mrs Natalie Ward and Mrs Kelly Brown.

Every week each teacher will have time out of the classroom for planning, preparation and assessment (PPA).

Teacher	Day(s)	Covered by
Miss Southerton	Wednesday and Thursday pm	Mrs Morrissey and First for Sport
Miss Seymour	Thursday pm	Mrs Morrissey and First for Sport
Miss Beale	Tuesday pm	Mrs Bye and First for Sport
Miss Scott	Tuesday all day	Mrs Bye and First for Sport

Some reminders:

Uniform: A pair of plain black shoes, dark grey/black trousers/shorts (boys and girls) or an appropriate length skirt, white shirt or polo shirt tucked in and a Rivermead sweatshirt or cardigan for when it gets colder. Longer hair must be tied back and the children should be smartly dressed to set an example to the younger children. A coat is also needed for wet and colder weather. Children are allowed to wear a pair of plain stud earrings and a watch, but no other jewellery is allowed (unless for religious/cultural reasons); fake tattoos or nail varnish are not allowed.

Things your child will need to have in school:-

Reading book - once all children have been given new books reflecting their current book band level

KS2 Reading Records- The aim of these is to monitor children's reading at home and will be checked daily. Comments must include a date, book title, pages read and any additional information that you wish to inform your child's teacher about. Please contact the team via email if you are unsure how to use these.

Bottle of water

Healthy snack - (if they wish).

PE kit - Rivermead t-shirt, black shorts, a separate pair of outdoor exercise trainers, a sweatshirt for when it gets colder and tracksuit bottoms. Children will not be able to wear their Rivermead jumper or black shoes when taking part in PE for health and safety reasons. Hair must be tied back from the face.

****Children will need to come into school in already in their PE kits on their PE days.****

Teacher	Day(s)
Year 6	Thursday and Friday
Year 5	Tuesday and Wednesday

Year 6 maths sets

There have been a few queries this week regarding maths sets for the children in year 6. We have fluid maths sets which means that each new unit we cover in school, the children will be reassessed for gaps in their knowledge and then grouped accordingly. The first unit this term will be place value for two weeks. This is followed by the four operations for five weeks, fractions for five weeks and then position and direction in geometry for a week. We will be adding a folder onto the onedrive which gives you and your children a preview of the next unit of work if you wish to look at it in advance.

Homework

All children are expected to read at home at least **four** times a week. Reading records will be checked by a teacher or teaching assistant daily throughout the week.

Each week we will be setting a maths and English piece of homework on a Monday which is due in the following Monday. We will be giving the children paper copies of the homework but also uploading it onto the onedrive along with the mark schemes. On the onedrive we will include an additional note which should clearly explain the homework to the children. As the onedrive worked so successfully during lockdown, we are hoping it will be well-used once again. A change this year is that we will be asking the children (or an adult at home) to mark their own homework and submit it to us already marked. We will then collect it in and scan through the work to ensure we can work with children who are struggling with particular pieces of work. If you do help your child with their homework, which is greatly encouraged by us, we would appreciate a little mark on the sheet just so we know an adult has assisted them with it. Please note that until we are able to give you links for the onedrive, emails will be sent to parents with the work and mark schemes attached.

Additionally, children will be expected to use Mathletics and TT Rockstars as often as possible. Children will be given their usernames and passwords within the next couple of weeks.

We will also be offering a homework club weekly at lunchtime which you may want to encourage your child to attend.

The spelling list attached outlines the words that children are expected to be able to spell by the end of Y6. Spelling sessions will continue to be taught weekly and are based on the Y5/6 spelling rules. If at home you are able to help your children to learn these spellings, it would be greatly received in school.

We are looking forward to working with you over the forthcoming year,

If you have any further questions or queries, we will be more than willing to discuss them with you. Please email or phone the office to do this.

Kind Regards

Miss Southerton

Miss Seymour

Miss Beale

Miss Scott