

## **CLASS 4, 5 AND 6 PARENTS' MEETING**

First, a very big thank you for a great start to the year. The children are settling extremely well and have begun to 'find their feet'. You have all been wonderful at the 'dropping off' routine and are obviously supporting them well at home. Thank you

Here are some notes to go with the Parents' meeting. If there is something that is not mentioned please feel free to ask at the end of the meeting, or ask the class teacher at another time.

### **PLEASE BRING EVERY DAY**

- Book bag with all reading books and bag of character/word/sound cards
- Packed lunch (if needed)
- Floppy bag with -
  1. Fruit/vegetables for morning play time in a plastic/paper/wax bag/plastic pots and boxes. All fruit to be kept in bags and not in trays please.
  2. Water bottle for the classroom. Water bottles must have ONLY WATER in them as we are a healthy school. The water bottle will be returned each evening. Please label all water bottles.

(FLOPPY BAGS/small rucksacks are good as children will be able to slip their jumpers, hats, gloves etc into them while they are on their pegs.)

### **ENCOURAGING THE CHILDREN TO BE INDEPENDENT WITH THE MORNING ROUTINE**

Please allow and encourage your child to put away their own packed lunch boxes, water bottles, coat etc. If they do it themselves they then know where their things are. Water bottles need to be in the classroom please not kept in floppy bags/book bags or lunchboxes.

Please practise putting coats on, doing them up and putting gloves on too. Thank you

It really helps the children settle and also eases congestion in the classrooms if you can leave your child as quickly as possible. This also makes it easier for the teacher to settle the children and get on with the busy morning.

### **TOILETING**

We are unable to assist your child so please teach them how to wipe and then allow them to practise this important skill. Of course if your child has an 'accident' we will assist them in changing out of wet/soiled clothes and into dry ones.

### **NOTES, RETURNED LETTERS, MONEY, MESSAGES OR NEED TO TALK**

Please put any notes, letters or trip money into the 'message basket' on the table in classrooms, in the mornings.

If you have a short message just write it on a 'post-it' note and place in the basket.

If you need to talk to the teacher at a greater length, grab us and we will arrange a time.

Changes to pick-up arrangements at the end of the day - put child's name on a 'post-it' and who will be picking-up child and then give it to a member of staff.

### **MILK**

Just a reminder that one or two children do not seem to be keen on their milk. We will keep on encouraging them but will inform you if this continues to half term. If you would like your child to have milk, please see the office for details of how to apply.

### **FREE SCHOOL MEALS**

The children have managed extremely well with eating their lunches. There is a very calm atmosphere and lots of adults to help out if needed. The school dinners are now free, so do encourage your child to try. The meals are set around the Family Service. This is where the children come into the hall, sit down and are served their food by the older children. This has proved to be a very successful service, in that the children enjoy being 'waited on', and also all of the children have to wait for each other to finish before moving onto pudding. This means that children do not rush their lunch to go outside and play and it is a sociable time, sitting chatting like at home.

### **EARLY YEARS GARDEN AND VERANDA**

The children go out onto the Early Years Garden or Veranda nearly every day. We think of these areas of an extension of the classroom. Going into the Early Years Garden is a very important part of the curriculum as it provides extended play opportunities and lots of active and 'first hand' learning.

We go out in ALL weathers! The children love to play in the rain and, because we keep them active in cold weather, they hardly notice it! If the weather is rainy please make sure your child has a WATERPROOF COAT.

### **LETTERS**

Children put letters into their reading bags at the end of the day. Please check their reading bag nightly otherwise you might miss important letters and information.

### SCHOOL UNIFORM

Please could you ensure that all uniform is named as children do leave cardigans and jumpers everywhere. So many children often go home with the wrong clothes on, especially when re-dressing from PE, due to the fact that they do not have names on. Thank you.

### PE

We have 3 PE/movement lessons per week. Please let/encourage your child to practise dressing and un-dressing on their own. It really helps them to become independent when changing for PE.

CLASS 4	MONDAY - in the hall Dance and 'Write Dance'	THURSDAY -outdoors Games skills	FRIDAY - in the hall Apparatus/gymnastics/floor work
CLASS 5	TUESDAY - outdoors Games skills	THURSDAY - in the hall Dance and 'Write Dance'	FRIDAY - in the hall Apparatus/gymnastics/floor work
CLASS 6	MONDAY - outdoors Games skills	WEDNESDAY - in the hall Dance and 'Write Dance'	FRIDAY - in the hall Apparatus/gymnastics/floor work

KIT REQUIRED IN PE BAGS AT ALL TIMES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• t-shirt</li><li>• Short shorts</li><li>• Plimsolls or trainers with Velcro or elastic fastenings</li><li>• Tracksuit (top and bottoms)</li></ul> PLEASE ENSURE THAT ALL PE KIT IS NAMED. THE KITS WILL BE SENT HOME EVERY HALF-TERM, OR SOONER, TO BE WASHED.
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NB: NO EAR-RINGS ARE TO BE WORN ON PE DAYS PLEASE

'Write-Dance' - is a systematic series of large motor co-ordination dance and mark making lessons that appeal to all the senses through music, movement and story. These sessions also help develop spatial awareness and the strength and co-ordination needed for writing. The children may bring home large sheets of chalk 'doodles' and patterns.

## READING

The children will read once per week with the teacher usually in a small group. On this day they will also change their books. Each child will be given 1 guided reading book; word/picture cards and 1 other book (this will have a pink, red or yellow sticker on the side)

NB: the guided reading books are in sets of 6 and it is vital that they are in school daily so that we can collect them in and re-distribute them as required. We are only able to allocate new reading books when your child returns their 'old' one.

The children will be given a reading diary. Inside there is information about how to help your child to read and explanations about 'phonics' (NOTE THERE WILL BE A SEPARATE PHONICS MEETING FOR PARENTS). The staff will write comments to let you know how your child is getting on, please write brief comments in the daily boxes to let us know how they are getting on at home. We have lots of parent helpers and students, so your child may read with other adults in school time.

### WHAT THE DIFFERENT BOOKS ARE FOR:

- Guided reading book - to practise story telling skills like looking at pictures, sounding out words etc
- Word/picture cards - to help learn tricky or key words. (Cut them out and play games with them like 'snap' or 'pairs'. This will help your child to learn them in a fun way. You can also match the words to words in other books or make silly sentences with them)
- 'Choosing books' - these are books the children choose for themselves from the reading books in the classroom and from the shelf in the corridor. These books help to build the children's interest and love of books; gives experience of different types of books and helps practise reading skills like looking at the pictures, talking about stories etc. These books are ideal for sharing with parents.
- Games - you may sometimes be given a game instead of a book, these are used to practise wider reading skills like memory, visual or sound discrimination.

### TEACHER COVER

Every teacher at Meadow Lane has one afternoon per week out of class to plan, prepare and assess. The classes are covered by staff of Meadow Lane. This will be every Tuesday afternoon.

Class 4	Mrs Atkinson
Class 5	Mrs Allcoat
Class 6	Mrs Johnston

**PARENT READING MORNINGS**

A little session where we all read books together in the class. Bring along little ones/babies, child minders, grandparents, the more the merrier.

CLASS 4	FRIDAY
CLASS 5	TUESDAY
CLASS 6	WEDNESDAY

These sessions start at 8.50 until 9.05 approx. We will begin the reading mornings starting the week beginning 21st September.

Many thanks for taking the time to attend the meeting and/or reading this information. It makes such a difference when all of the above routines run smoothly and allow the staff and children to get on with the teaching, learning and having fun.

Best wishes

Mrs Darke and Mrs Allcoat; Miss Jowett and Mrs Green; Mrs Styles and Mrs Ireland  
The Foundation Team

