

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> September

Dear Parents/Carers

Well... we finally have everyone in 😊. Welcome to our Reception children that started this week. It is great that our whole community is finally all together. I spent a joyous morning in Reception this Wednesday and was pleased to be able to meet so many of the children. In our assemblies this week, we discussed how important each of us are as individuals and that together we can truly be something great. To illustrate this, I baked a Chocolate microwave mug cake right in front of them. I promised the children I would send the recipe home for any of our budding chefs out there to try.

Here is the link: <https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/recipes/microwave-mug-cake>

### Kindness Awards

We are very pleased to announce our first Kindness Award recipients for this year. These were announced in assembly today.

Reception		Year 1		Year 2	
Ash	Jack	Maple	Olivia	Beech	Amelie
Elm	Vivien	Rowan	William	Oak	Jacob
Holly	Julie	Willow	Grace	Sycamore	Isabella
	Pine		Dylan		

Congratulations to all these children and thank you to them for being such kind people. The children will wear their medals home to have for the weekend. Please can they return these on Monday - Thank you!

### Reading

Reading is a skill we continue to develop throughout our lives, but starting this process as early as possible has significant benefits for our continued success as readers. This is why, as parents and carers, you play a vital role in supporting your child in becoming a fluent reader who is confidently able to apply their reading skills across all areas of their lives.

The teaching of reading and reading comprehension within the classroom is only part of a child's learning, and the value that is given to reading at home is equally important. Research suggests that children who read regularly outside of school perform significantly better in school assessments and consequently expand their life chances. Your support at home is essential in ensuring that your child makes the progress they are capable of. You can help your child to achieve their full potential by listening to them read daily (for about 15 minutes), reading regular bedtime stories and by encouraging them to enjoy reading and sharing books together. Reading widely through all of these approaches will help develop your child's vocabulary, which in turn will make them more confident when reading more challenging books.

We provide a variety of ways to support your children at home with reading. The Big Cat Collins e-books are phonetically decodable and will relate directly to the children's phonic teaching in school. An e-book will be allocated for your child which they will have been taught how to read in the classroom. When they read to you they should be 95% accurate so that they are *practising* their reading rather than you having to "teach them to read". Once your children are able to blend all (44) sounds in their head and read words automatically and fluently they will be provided with non-decodable books. All the children will be assessed regularly on the phonic knowledge they are being taught so that we can match the books correctly.

**Due to a technical challenge on the website, new books will be allocated and available for your child to read on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> September.**



Alongside the book chosen at your child's reading level there will be a second book to share and enjoy together. This will not be at your child's reading level but is very important in supporting your child's enjoyment of books and reading and increasing their vocabulary and understanding through chatting and listening to new words.

As before, there will be a record book in your child's book bag for you to write comments in **five times each week**. On the adjacent page the staff will write how your child is achieving in their reading and ideas for you to practice at home. Please ask us if you have any questions. Thank you very much for your support.

### **Coffee Mornings**

Next week we have our Year Group Coffee Mornings. These will take place between 9am and 9:30am in the school hall. Please see the dates for each year group below:

- Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> September – Reception
- Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> September – Year 1
- Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> September – Year 2

### **New Parent Safeguarding Talk**

I will be holding parent safeguarding talks on **Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> September from 2:30pm – 3pm and Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> September from 9:00am – 9:30pm**. As well as getting a DBS check, if you would like to support the school on trips, or in the classroom, or at a PTA event it is important that you also have some additional training on our specific safeguarding policies and practices. If you would like to attend either of these talks, please could you let the office know by phoning in on 020 8979 2945 and booking a preferred date. There will be some reading to go alongside, which will send out to those who have booked on it via parentmail two days prior to the meetings.

### **Parking**

It has been noticed that the parking on Hansler Grove has becoming quite hazardous in the mornings. Please ensure that you are not parking on double yellow lines, in front of our neighbours drive ways or in other restricted sections of the road. Please also be mindful of parking on pavements as well as this has caused some pedestrians to have to walk in the road making it quite dangerous for them. Thank you for your co-operation with this.

Many thanks as always for your support and I hope you have an enjoyable weekend and memorable bank holiday as we nationally come together to respectfully say goodbye to Queen Elizabeth.

We will see you all again on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> September.

Best wishes

Sally Cary

Head teacher