

Dear Parents,

I hope you have had a lovely time over the summer and I am sure you are now ready to start the new school year. I am looking forward to getting to know the children and working together so that we have a very exciting and productive year.

Learning in EYFS

It has been found that children in EYFS learn best through a mixture of child initiated learning and adult - led activities. The key areas of learning are:

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Physical Development
- Communication and Language
- Mathematical Development
- Literacy
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

The children's stage of development is assessed through their activities and new target are set for their progress. We will communicate some of the children's achievements to parents through the 'Tapestry' programme. There will be a school open evening during the Autumn Term, in which to discuss your child's progress. There will also be a monthly newsletter.

Reading

Your child will be given reading books to bring home every Monday and a home learning book for you to record any comments. When you have signed the children's reading records to indicate they have finished reading the books we will change them. Children should only bring their home learning and reading book into school on Mondays.

Initially, the book will be a story book, intended for sharing and reading to your child. During this phase, please pause to ask your child questions about the story. You may ask your child to remember what has happened before or predict what may happen next.

After half term, reception children will bring home books with illustrations which they will use to 'tell' or to describe the story. Following on from this, they will bring home books with simple words to decode, in line with their learning.

Phonics/Spellings

Each day, EYFS children will have at least one phonic lesson based upon material from the 'Letters and Sounds' programme. Phase one introduces activities such as focussed listening to sounds, rhythm and rhyme. In phase two and three, reception children will learn different sounds (vowel sounds, long vowel sounds and blends). In order for phase two and three to be successful, it is important to have had exposure to a full and varied programme of phase one phonics and this will continue alongside the later stages.

Tapestry

We use an online learning journal called 'Tapestry' to record your child's achievements in school. You are able to access your own child's journal and you can add photos and information from home. It is a great way to find out what sort of activities your children have been doing in school. The website has a login page:

<https://tapestryjournal.com/login/>

Your initial log in details will be:

Login: your email (the one you shared with school on registration)

Password: Tonwell1234!

PIN: 4628

You will then be able to change your password. Please contact me if you have any problems logging in.

General Reminders

- The children start school at 8.45am.
- The children will be doing **PE** every **Monday**. Please ensure your child comes to school in their PE kit on these days.
- **Forest school** is every **Friday**, although EYFS may use this area on other days, as well. EYFS children have a set of all - in - one waterproofs which they will change into for forest school activities. These will be named so that children do not share these items of clothing. **Your child will need a pair of wellies that can be left at school during term time.**
- **Water bottles** should be brought into school every day. **Please make sure your child's name is written clearly on their water bottle.**
- EYFS access the outdoor area freely during periods of child initiated activity. It may be helpful if you could provide **a pair of plimsolls for indoor use** on rainy/muddy days, please.
- Finally, please ensure that **all** items of clothing are named - including coats, hats, gloves, scarves and shoes, please.

I hope this overview enables us to work together to support your children in their learning this term. If you have any concerns at any time please feel free to email (veronica.wagner@tonwell.herts.sch.uk) or phone me.

Kind regards
Mrs Wagner