



Emersons Green Primary School
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Red Class Newsletter – Term 1 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to Emersons Green Primary School!

In this first newsletter, we aim to give you some key information regarding your child's first term with us, as well as information that will continue to be relevant throughout the year. Apologies in advance that there is quite a lot to read! Class newsletters, topic webs and learning overviews are produced at the start of each term, and can be found on Google Classroom and the school website, so please look at these regularly as important information is communicated in this way. **You will receive your Google Classroom log in details soon.**

Firstly, I would like to introduce you to the Early Years team. I (Mrs Bishop) will be the class teacher for Red Class on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Mrs Sandiford will be the class teacher every Friday. Mrs Thatcher will support the children in her role as Teaching Assistant on a full-time basis. In addition, we have two further Teaching Assistants, whose primary role is to support children on a 1:1 basis – their names are Mrs James and Mrs Leaver. Every Thursday afternoon, Mrs White and Mr Wilson will teach the class; Mrs White will take the children to the school library and Mr Wilson will deliver a PE lesson. You will have the opportunity to meet and get to know staff over the coming weeks.

This term's learning

Our key question this term is 'Who am I?' which gives us the opportunity to get to know each other and the things that make us similar and different. We will be exploring families, friends, school, feelings, and communities. As part of this topic, we will be talking about our families and our homes. **Please could you send in a photograph of your child with their family for us to discuss and then display in our 'Home Corner'**; this will help us to see similarities and differences between families, as well as offering an element of familiarity for the children. Either a printed copy or an emailed version to the school office (admin@egps.org.uk) would be gratefully received.

If you have yet to return the 'All About Me' booklet that your child was given during our summer story-time session, please can you do that soon – these are invaluable for us in finding out more about each child.

The attached topic web outlines the main things we will be focusing on this term, in each of the prime and specific areas of learning. The over-arching aim for this first term is to ensure every child is settled and happy in school, which will enable them to learn and make progress in all areas. The school day provides children with lots of opportunities to learn through collaborative play, alongside focused whole-class and small-group teaching of key knowledge and skills. The adults in Red Class also love getting 'stuck in' to the play alongside the children, and lots of new learning will happen in this way. **An information session for parents, which will take place on Thursday 9th November at 9am in the school hall, will provide you with further information about the Early Years curriculum and how children learn in their Reception year** (the slides from this session will also be available on the school website and Google Classroom afterwards).

During this first term, children will also take part in a **statutory Baseline Assessment** – more details about this is provided in the attached leaflet from the Department for Education.

Here are some of key texts we will be using this term:



Things to bring to school

Please ensure that your child brings the following to school every day:

- **School book bag, containing reading book and reading record (see below)**
- **A named water bottle (please only provide water, not squash or fizzy drinks)**
- **Waterproof coat (please ensure children have their coat every day just in case!)**

If your child requires any regular medication, or has an inhaler or epi-pen, this needs to be passed to the school office, who will ask you to complete a medical form and to provide us with more detail about this, including a care plan where necessary.

PE will take place every Thursday from 28th September – Please ensure your child comes to school wearing their PE kit. They do not need to bring their uniform to change into, as they will be staying in PE kit all day.

Forest School sessions will take place every Friday from 29th September - Please ensure your child comes to school wearing their PE kit. Please could you also provide Wellies (these can remain in school) and appropriate additional clothes/layers once it turns colder (e.g. hat, gloves, extra jumper).

Break-time and lunch-times

We have the opportunity of utilising a 'break-time' in the morning, where children have access to the playground or field. They will also have 'fruit and milk time', which is a break from their independent learning when they have a snack and a drink. **Fruit is provided free,**

for all children, and milk is provided free until children are aged 5. If you wish to purchase milk for your child after their 5th birthday, please speak to the office, who will also send a reminder letter to you in advance of your child's 5th birthday. If you wish to provide your own morning snack, please ensure that this is fruit or vegetables only, and please avoid any 'wrapped' snacks.

From Thursday 21st September, all Reception children will be staying in school for lunch.

All Infant children are entitled to a free school lunch, or you can provide a packed lunch from home – if you do so, please ensure there are no products that contain nuts in your child's lunchbox. **All lunches need to be pre-ordered using ParentPay,** even if your child is bringing in a packed lunch from home. This can be done up to 3 weeks in advance.

Reading

We will soon begin to send home reading books for you to share at home with your child. The first of these books will have no words, so that the children focus on developing their understanding of how to handle books and how to enjoy looking at the pictures – you can encourage them to use these images to 'tell' the story and to talk about what they can see. Once we begin teaching phonics, we will send home reading books that are decodable – this means children should be able to use their emerging phonics knowledge to break down the words into individual sounds and blend these back together. More information about the teaching of phonics can be found in the attached Overview document, and there will be a **phonics workshop for parents on Friday 6th October at 9am, in the school hall, which you are invited to attend.**

Reading books will be changed every Thursday, but please ensure your child brings their reading book into school in their book bag every day as adults in school love to hear your child read.

Children will also be able to take home a school library book, which they will be able to choose from a selection of picture books, on a Thursday – we will begin our weekly library visits later in the term. These books are designed to develop a love of reading, and can be enjoyed independently or with others. **Please ensure your child has their library book in their book bag every Thursday so that they can return it and collect a new book.**

A separate letter is attached which outlines our approach to reading books in more detail.

Strengthening links between home and school learning

At Emersons Green Primary School, we really value you as co-educators of your children. We know that out of school, children demonstrate their learning in a variety of ways. We are keen to offer the opportunity for you to share these important learning experiences with us. Attached is a letter explaining how we use 'Wow' certificates in order to celebrate your children's out of school achievements.

Drop-off and Pick-up

Whilst the children are being gradually introduced to our school setting through their phased start, their drop-off and pick-up times and locations will vary – we will have talked to you about this during your 1-1 visit but will also be on hand to welcome you and the children to school each day, so keep an eye out for us!

Once children are in full-time (from Monday 25th September), drop-off will be from 8:40am, with the entrance gate closing at 8:50am. Reception children need to be dropped off at the Key Stage One cloakroom (on the playground side of the school building), so you should enter the school site through the main gate onto the playground. Pick up is at 3:15pm, and Reception children are collected from the rear classroom door – the easiest way to enter and leave the school site at this time is through the side gate near the bike racks. **If you are also collecting older siblings, please collect your Reception child first, before making your way round to the main playground.**

At home time, please wait in the Reception outdoor area. **We will not let children out of our care until we can see a parent or carer, so please speak to your child about the importance of staying with the teacher until they are told they can go.** Please give us a wave when your child is at the front of the line as it can be quite tricky to spot everyone! If someone different is going to pick up your child, we will need a message from you (either on the door that morning or via the office in plenty of time prior to pick-up) or we will be unable to let the child go until we have spoken to you. If there is someone who will regularly be collecting your child (e.g. Grandparents every Monday), or someone who has permission to collect on an ad-hoc basis (e.g. another child's parent) please let us know that this is an ongoing arrangement and we can keep a record of this.

We hope this letter contains useful information for you; please don't hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions or concerns, or if there is something specific to your child that you feel we should know.

Thank you for your support. Best wishes for an enjoyable first term!

Mrs Bishop and Mrs Sandiford