

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Oak Class and to Breck School! We hope that you have all had a wonderful summer and are looking forward to the exciting times ahead. The children have had a fantastic first few days in school and are all settling in really well. They are having lots of fun exploring the classroom, engaging in the activities and making new friends.

The children are all doing brilliantly well coming into school in the mornings. We know that for some children (and parents) this is a daunting and emotional time. Please be assured that any children who are initially finding this part of the day difficult settle quickly once inside.

A Few General Reminders:

Mornings

When dropping your child off in the morning please stand in the infant playground with your child outside Oak Class. School starts at 8.50am and staff will come out onto the playground from 8.45am, ring the bell, help children to line up and then bring them into the classroom. If for any reason you arrive late and the classroom door is closed, please walk around to the office and a member of staff will bring your child to the classroom. This is to ensure that all arrivals at school are correctly registered.

All Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 children usually come into school each morning through the hall doors on the junior playground. During the initial weeks in school Reception Class children can continue to come into school via their classroom doors. If your children want to come into school through the hall doors they can, as soon as your children feel ready to do so. A member of staff will be on hand in the hall from Monday 15th September for any children who would like to come into school this way. Parents who still want to take their children round to Oak class door can.

Show and Tell

This is an opportunity each week for the children to bring one item to discuss, thus strengthening their confidence in speaking and developing their skills in listening to each other. Your child is welcome to bring in an **object, photograph, picture etc relating to our topic on the day given** (please see the timetable on the classroom window). Please do not send in any toys.

Certificates, medals and trophies from any competitions and clubs can also be brought in on your child's nominated day to be shown in class.

Star of the Week

Star of the Week has already begun for the rest of the school, and will begin for Reception as soon as they are ready to go into the school hall for normal assemblies. Star of the Week is announced on Fridays. The chosen child will go up in assembly to receive their certificate and share with everyone the reason why they have been chosen. This could be for a variety of reasons including behaviour,

manners, character, work or attitude. The child will then take Oakley Bear home for the weekend and must return him on the following Wednesday. A diary will be enclosed to add the details of Oakley's exciting time with the child, and include any photographs of where they went and what they did together.

Water Bottles

Please ensure that your child brings a named and filled water bottle into school with them each day so that they can drink regularly throughout the day. This will be sent home at the end of each day so that it can be washed and returned to school again the following morning. We request that these drinks bottles contain water only and not other drinks. Children may of course bring juice to drink with their packed lunch, and juice and water are available for children having a school dinner at lunchtime.

Milk

Infant children have the opportunity to have a carton of milk each day if parents wish. This needs to be ordered directly through the supplier 'Cool Milk' either online or by post. Further details are available from the school office.

Snacks

Children are able to bring a small healthy snack, such as fruit, cereal bars, crackers etc to school to eat at morning playtime. The schools fruit scheme provides fruit for all infant children which is available for them to eat at afternoon playtime. Please can you ensure that your child's snack is labelled clearly with their name, either by writing on the packet or by placing it in a labelled sandwich bag or small plastic container.

Tuck and Toast

Once children are settled in school and are becoming familiar with the daily routines there will be the opportunity for them to buy toast or a healthy snack from the school tuck shop which is run by our Year 6 children. Toast costs 10p per slice and tuck items range from 20p to 30p. If your child wishes to buy toast or a snack item from the tuck shop please send them with a purse or wallet which is clearly labelled with their name. They will again place this in a box in the classroom in the morning. Please only send in small amounts of money that your child will need for the tuck or toast that day. **We will inform parents when tuck shop and toast has begun for Reception Class children.**

Book Bags.

Please can we request that children do not bring overly large bags to school as there is limited space to store these in the class cloakroom. School book bags are a perfect size. Please look inside your child's bag on a daily basis as letters and other correspondence from school may be sent home in them.

Labelling

Please ensure that all belongings (uniform, coats, lunch boxes, book bags, snack boxes, water bottles etc) are clearly labelled with your child's name. This both helps your child to recognise their name and locate their own belongings, but also enables misplaced items to be easily identified and returned.

Coats

Whilst the weather is still fairly pleasant at the moment please ensure that your child has a coat in school with them each day as we will take the opportunity to go outside both rain and shine! We recognise that some children may find putting on and fastening their own coat difficult and we support children in practising and developing this skill in school. Practising this at home also will help aid your child's independence.

The Foundation Stage Curriculum.

The Foundation Stage curriculum is topic based and for each half term there will be a new topic that the children will learn through. Please find below a flavour of the curriculum coverage and some of the activities that we will be doing in class this term. I hope that you will find this helpful when talking with your child at home.

Our overall topic for this half term is ***'Ourselves'*** and then we will move onto ***'Festivals and Celebrations'*** after the October half term holiday.

There are **seven** areas of learning in the foundation stage;

Three Prime areas:

- Communication and Language
- Physical development
- Personal, Social and Emotional development;

and four Specific areas:

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the world
- Expressive Arts and Design.

In Literacy, Communication and Language we will be developing confidence in speaking and listening through stories in familiar settings, discussion and role-play activities. We will be learning and recognising letters and sounds, and begin to write these in a variety of ways including for example, sand, sticks, foam and oil. Activities will help develop pencil control and the formation of letters using the cursive style of writing.

In Mathematics we will be familiarising ourselves with numbers to 20. The children will begin to count, recognise and sequence numbers to 20 in all aspects of their play as well as practising writing them correctly. Measurement, shape and space will be explored through lots of exciting role play and practical activities linked to the topic.

Our focus on the topic of 'Ourselves' will include talking about our families, our feelings and our likes and dislikes. As part of Creative Development we will draw a pencil portrait of ourselves and compare it a photograph. We will also paint something familiar or relevant to us, as well as use chalks, inks and stampers. We will learn and perform both familiar and new songs and explore percussion instruments.

Physical activities (P.E) are timetabled to take place on **Thursday or Friday**, for Reception class. Please ensure however that your child's P.E kit is in school throughout the week as we may also use it at other times. Most children leave their P.E bags on their pegs for the half term and they are sent home for the holidays to be washed.

Supporting your child's learning at home.

We recognise the importance of the role that parents play in their child's education and appreciate the support that you provide at home. There are lots of ways that you can support your child's learning and development. Talking with your child about their daily activities at school and discussing our current topic together will enhance and extend your child's understanding and interest in what they are learning about at school.

'Homework' in Reception will consist of activities to support the development of phonics and early reading skills, letter formation and key mathematical concepts, as well as ideas for activities to widen your child's knowledge and understanding in relation to our topic themes for each half term. Reading books and phonic prompt cards; with key letters for children to learn to recognise and know the letter name and sound for; will be sent home to help you support your child's learning. As children begin to develop their recognition of different letters and their sounds, letter formation booklets will also be sent home for children to practise writing the letters for the sounds they are learning.

Home activities will begin to be sent home once the children are well settled and baseline assessments of each child's current level of development in each of the areas of the Foundation Stage Curriculum have been carried out. More details regarding these activities will follow at the time.

Website

Our school website is a useful source of information about all aspects of Breck life. It is updated on a weekly basis, so please check regularly for the latest information. **www.breckschool.co.uk**

As a school we have an open door policy and staff are always available to talk to you regarding any queries or concerns you may have. Please do not hesitate to contact us in this regard, either by popping in to have a chat at the end of the school day or by making an appointment via the school office.

We look forward to sharing this year with you and your child and seeing them develop and progress to their full potential.

Yours Sincerely,

Mr Halliwell and the Reception Team