



PURBROOK INFANT SCHOOL
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19 November 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

First of all, we would like to start by saying thank you for the messages of support we have received from parents with regard to the steps we have taken to ensure the safety of students and staff during these challenging times, and the appreciation shared for the work the teachers are doing.

We are however, fully aware that some parents have found the transition into Year R a tricky one and we appreciate that this year in particular has been hard for you because of the changes made as a result of Covid-19. It has certainly impacted on those informal chats at the door that often help to reassure parents and keep lines of communication open. To help ease this we have set up Tapestry as a means of communication, if you have any questions or worries please pop them on here and the teachers will be happy to answer them, or if it needs further discussion, arrange a time to do so. This will be addressed at the earliest possible time but staff are advised to turn off notifications during the evenings and weekends so please be patient.

Some parents have expressed not knowing certain routines or practise in the school. By now we would normally have had a settling in parents evening and I would like to reassure you this will happen virtually the week of 30 November. During this meeting you will find out how your child has settled, who their friends are, their likes and dislikes about school and how they are achieving and their next steps. This will be a very informative meeting.

At this time, we would normally have you all in as a year group and formally share a presentation with you on what school looks like in year R and what to expect going forward. For obvious reasons this cannot happen, however Miss Wigmore has been working hard on a video that addresses some of the settling in questions we often get at this time of year and this will be available from the week of 23 November. This will hopefully go some way to ease any worries you may have.

Below is a reminder of some of the information we have previously shared with you at the beginning of the term:

- The children in year R will have at least one formal reading session with the teacher every three weeks in school, and this is where new skills are addressed and this will be briefly recorded in their reading diary. However, alongside this they have other reading opportunities throughout the day but these are not recorded in the diary, such as reading in phonics, guided/group reading sessions and daily class reading
- Teddy cards will be shared once every three weeks as well
- Busy bee stickers and certificates are handed out by the headteacher to award a piece of learning, these are hard to achieve and not given out very often to ensure they remain special and a goal to work towards
- 'Fantastics' is a little tea party the children can attend on an afternoon following the assembly award for behaving well and getting their name on the fantastic. This is then a lottery of whose name is pulled out, we tell the children "you have to be in it to win it"
- Half termly curriculum reports are sent to ensure you are aware of what is being covered

We appreciate your patience and your ongoing support. The teachers here work so hard to ensure that your little ones are happy and have an exciting curriculum to engage with, as well as ensuring that any children who are off self-isolating are also being offered blended learning. This is a new way of working for teachers up and down the country and it is impacting on the work life balance of all teaching staff. I'm sure you will join me in thanking the teachers here for their hard work and dedication. Remember they want to help, please just ask if you have any worries or questions!

Yours sincerely

Mrs L de Carteret
Headteacher