

Foundation Phase Autumn Term Class letter 2021

A very big welcome back to everyone, and a special 'Hello' to our Reception children and the new children that have joined us in Year 2. We hope you have all had a lovely summer break and are looking forward to the term ahead.

Our topic for this term is **Family Album** which has a history focus and teaches children about the chronology of their lives and their wider family and we will be looking at how family life has changed over time. We will also be learning about how to look after babies and about toys and games of the past; we would be very grateful if there are any parents or grandparents out there who have any artefacts of life in the past or **old toys and games** that you would be willing to share with us. We have arranged a **Toys Workshop** from Brecon Museum Outreach which will take place in school during the morning **next Thursday 16th September**. The workshop will give pupils the opportunity to learn about, and play with, old toys and games. We are asking for a contribution of **£2 per child** towards the cost of the workshop, this is payable via ParentPay.

We would also be very pleased if each pupil could bring in **one photograph of themselves as a baby**. We will use these in our class discussions about what babies can do and how we grow and change. We will photocopy the photographs as they come in and return the originals to you. **Please could the photographs be sent in by Monday 13th September.**

Further information about our topic is detailed in the attached topic web.

Morning Routine - There is a trolley in the classroom where we ask your child to put their lunch bag and drink, before washing their hands. There are a range of table top activities set up for children to choose from before settling down to do the lunch register.

P.E. will be on **Wednesday** this term. Please can children come dressed in their PE kits, which should be shorts/leggings, T-shirt and a pair of plimsolls or daps. We will try to do this outside whenever possible, so please can children also have a warm jumper/fleece. **Reception** children will also be attending Forest School with Mrs. Thomas and Mrs Whittle every Thursday morning, however, we will try to do as much outdoor learning as possible with all years, so it is essential that all pupils have a change of footwear (ideally **wellies**) and a **waterproof coat** in school at all times. It would be a great help if you could teach your child to dress and undress as independently as possible. Please could you make sure that all items of clothing and shoes are named to avoid mix-ups.

Water bottles - Please send a filled, **named** water bottle to school each day with your child, playing and learning is thirsty work!

Snack - We have a snack-time break at 10.30am in the mornings, all children should bring a fresh fruit/vegetable snack with them each day.

Cooking - We will be cooking a variety of food this term, usually something related to our topic. We are particularly mindful of current guidelines and will do everything possible to ensure this activity is carried out safely. However, parents will be informed beforehand and will be given the choice for their child to opt out of this activity if they have any concerns. In order to provide this activity, we ask for a contribution of £3 a term towards the cost of purchasing ingredients. We appreciate your support with this as cooking is an activity the children particularly enjoy.

Homework - Y1 and 2 will have **Spelling** words sent home on Monday. Please help your child to learn these words ready for an informal test on Friday. **Maths** homework will be sent home on Thursday and should be returned the following Monday. **Year 2** will be bringing home a **Mental Arithmetic book**. Please support your child to complete

one test each week. **Year 1** will be given a Maths activity based on the Maths they have been learning in class. In addition all children should read regularly as part of their homework.

Reading - All pupils in Foundation Phase will take part in differentiated **Guided Reading** sessions, twice a week and **Phonics** sessions three times a week. Pupils will benefit from taking part in these structured group reading sessions which link directly to our phonics scheme and focus on discussion and comprehension. Individual **reading books** will still be sent home, Reception children should read for a couple of minutes every day and by Year 2 they should be reading for 10 minutes at least 3/4 times per week, as this is a crucial part of their learning. Record what reading has been done in their reading record. Please ensure that the reading record and reading book is brought into school every day. These individual reading books can be changed at any time.

Bags - Please can all children use their book bags to bring books to school, rather than a rucksack, as space in the cloakroom is limited and it makes it difficult for them to hang their coats on the pegs. We can also use these to put homework books in as it keeps the books in a good condition. Book bags can be ordered from <http://myclothing.com> for £5.50

Hair - Please can all boys and girls with hair that is long enough to tie into a bobble, wear their hair tied up.

Medicines - If your child has to take any medication during school hours, please fill in one of the forms that are available from the school office and leave the medicine with a member of staff at reception.

Communication - We try to be a paperless school whenever possible; weekly updates, newsletters and other information from Mrs Marshall will be emailed to parents. If you are not receiving this information, please check your junk folder as well as making sure we have your up-to-date email address. Dates of upcoming events will be shared via school newsletters. Follow us on Twitter **@Our_Llangattock**

Kind regards,

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