

# **Panshanger Primary School**

## **Reception Newsletter - Autumn 2017**

Welcome to Reception. The children all came in so smartly in their school uniforms and they have settled in well to full-time school, even though some children might be finding the day quite long and a little tiring!

It's great to see so many children coming into the classroom independently, changing their shoes and starting their morning activity. In order to avoid congestion and help all the children develop their independence it would be helpful to say goodbye at the door. Please try to avoid coming into the classroom or waiting outside the window as this can be unsettling for some of the children. If you need to speak to us for any reason we will be at the door.

This half term our topic will be 'Super Me'. We will be concentrating on the Prime Areas; Communication and Language, Physical Development and Personal, social and emotional development alongside the Specific Areas of learning; Maths, Literacy, Understanding the World and Expressive Arts and Design. In addition to our topic plan we will also run child initiated learning (ChIL), which will be amended daily according to the interests and needs of the children.

The children will also have weekly music lessons with Mr Mitchell and French with Madame Bruce. Mrs Claridge will be teaching PE on Thursday afternoon.

### **Phonics and Reading**

Daily phonic sessions are taught each morning. The children will learn a new letter sound each day and begin to use these letters to read and write words. In addition the children will learn to read common words by sight. Each week the children will take home the letters and common words we have been learning. These letters will be placed within the children's letter wallets for you to practise at home and create simple words together with your child.

Alongside this the children will bring home books to read and share together. One of these will be a reading book to develop reading skills and the other will be a picture book to share. Please ensure you read the books/letters/common words daily with your child to guide them in their journey in learning to read. Your child will also be given a reading record. This should be filled in with the date, book title and a brief comment. Please keep the reading records in the book bags so they are available for reading school. The expectation is that children will read at least 3 times a week and reading records will be checked on Friday mornings.

### **Book Bags**

Your child will need to bring his/her book bag to school every day to ensure you receive relevant information and the wonderful work they wish to bring home. Please check it daily!

A daily snack of fruit or vegetables is provided by the school. Please also ensure your child has a named water bottle that is collected from the tray each day.

### PE kit

The children will need PE kit for indoor and outdoor lessons. PE lessons are currently planned for Thursdays although PE kit should be kept in school all week as additional sessions may be planned. The children should have a jade t-shirt and navy shorts for indoor lessons and a navy jumper and jogging bottoms (no logos) and trainers for outdoor lessons. A spare pair of socks is also very useful!! Please ensure EVERYTHING IS NAMED!

It is important for your child to be able to change in and out of their uniform independently. Please support your child in practising these skills at home. In accordance with our health and safety policy long hair must be tied back and no jewellery is to be worn. If your child wears earrings it is best to take them out before school. If this is not possible the earrings will need to be covered with micro pore tape.

### Shared reading

Shared reading sessions happen every Friday morning at 8.45. Parents and carers are invited to stay for 15 minutes and share a book with their child.

### Home Learning

We have created a few suggestions for activities you could do at home with the children to extend their learning in school. Please upload photos and comments to Tapestry to tell us how they've got on.

If you have any questions or concerns please arrange a time to meet with us; our surgery days are Tuesday or Wednesday although we are often available at the end of the day.

Mrs Waring and Mrs Ching  
Reception Class Teachers