

## **Panshanger Primary School**

### **Reception Newsletter - Autumn 2020**

Welcome to Reception. It has been lovely meeting you all during our Play and Stay sessions. This year is very unusual in terms of the limitations that have been placed on our usual transition process. Thank you for bearing with us! We appreciate that the children's experiences over recent months will be especially varied this year and will work with each one of them to help them settle into life at Panshanger. We are looking forward very much to getting to know them.

#### **Topic**

This half term our topic is 'Marvellous me/Superheroes!' We will be concentrating on the Prime Areas of the Early Years Foundation stage curriculum; Communication and Language, Physical Development and Personal, Social and Emotional development alongside the Specific Areas of learning; Maths, English, 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 developed daily according to the interests and needs of the children. During this time, the children will have a free choice of indoor and outdoor play activities. A summary of the planning for this half term is available on the school website, it includes suggestions for things you can do at home to support your child. Please ask if you would like a paper copy.

The children will also have a weekly music lesson with Mr Mitchell.

#### **Learning Journals**

Thank you to everyone who has logged onto the online system Tapestry including adding a film clip of their child saying hello and completing the All about me information section. Please do complete this if you have not already done so. All of this has already proved very useful. As you know, we use Tapestry for our learning journals. The children's learning journals are a lovely record of their development and we really encourage your contributions to them. Everyone has received an email explaining how to activate their account and how to set a password. If you encounter any difficulties with Tapestry please let us know.

Please upload things from home to let us know about your child's learning and interests. During the week the children will share the things that they have been doing at home by showing the class their Tapestry entries and telling the children about them.

We will also use Tapestry to let you know if your child has needed a change of clothes or if they have hurt themselves during the day.

#### **Book Bags**

Your child will need to bring his/her book bag to school every day, however given the present precautions around Covid we will aim to send home as little as possible and will use Tapestry and email more widely to communicate with you. Please encourage your child to place their book bag in their colour group box when they arrive in the morning. It might help your child to recognise their book bag if it has a small keyring or ribbon on it. A daily snack of fruit or vegetables is provided, although they can bring in a healthy snack if they would like to, either

fruit or vegetable. Please also ensure your child has a named water bottle that is collected from the tray each day. Please do not bring any toys etc into school.

### PE kit

All PE lessons will be outdoors initially and are currently planned for Wednesdays and Thursdays although PE kits should be kept in school all week, normally we send PE kits home every half term. The children should have a jade t-shirt and navy shorts for indoor lessons as well as a navy jumper and jogging bottoms (no logos) and trainers for outdoor lessons. A spare pair of socks, spare underwear and trousers or skirt are also very useful to have in their drawstring PE bag! Please ensure EVERYTHING IS NAMED! It is important for your child to be able to change in and out of their uniform independently, including their school shoes. Please continue to 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.

### Phonics and Reading books

Phonics is taught daily and the children will also learn to read common words by sight. Each week the children will take home the letters and common words we have been learning. These will be placed within the children's letter wallets for you to practise at home, for example, creating simple words together with your child. Please take these sounds and words out of your child's wallet and return the wallet to the book bag for the next set of sounds etc. Alongside this, the children will bring home two books every week. One will be a reader for them to practise their phonics (although initially these will be picture books for you to share with your child) and a free choice book for you to read to them. Please ensure you read the books/letters/common words daily with your child to guide them in their journey in learning to read. We intend to send books home on Wednesdays and they should be kept at home until the following Monday. This way we can quarantine the books before issuing new ones on the following Wednesday. The children will have a different book that they will read with an adult at school as well.

### Communicating with us

If for any reason you would like to talk to us please would you email or phone us. We are unable, at the moment, to invite parents into school but will reply by email or phone as soon as we can.

We look forward to working with you and your child to make their time with us challenging, rewarding and fun!

Mrs Boylan  
Reception Class Teacher