

Dear Parents,

8th September 2020

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you all back to school. I hope you have had an enjoyable yet safe summer, and that you are all ready to take the next the steps in your child's learning journey.

I would also like to welcome Miss Karczmarczyk and Miss Frewer to the Squirrels team. They will work alongside myself each day to ensure all the children get the best education possible. Mrs Farndale and Ms Rankin will also continue to teach the children on Tuesdays.

This term we will be completing an initial two-week transition project based on the book: "Here We Are". Following that, our two themes for the Autumn Term are 'Heroes & Heroines' and 'Towers & Turrets'. Before we start each topic, I will send out our learning web with all the fantastic activities that we hope to complete each half-term.

Our school day begins at **8:40am** and ends at **3:05pm**. Please be at the main school gates promptly each day at these times. Also, our PE days are on **Mondays and Thursdays**, so please could children wear their PE kits to school on these days. The children will remain in their PE kit all day on these two days.

Please continue to listen to your children <u>read daily</u>. There is a school expectation that all books are read at <u>least</u> <u>twice</u> at home to allow them to develop fluency and confidence with reading. Unfortunately, we are unable to invite volunteers in to school at this time, so children will not be heard read as regularly as we would like. We will change reading books on a <u>Monday and Thursday</u> and as always, we value your input on your children's reading, so please write any comments about their reading in their reading record for us to see.

Regrettably, children will <u>not</u> be allowed to bring in anything from home for "show and tell" until further notice. However, there will still be opportunities for your child to share verbally anything exciting they have been doing or any interesting facts that they have found out that we can discuss as a class.

All children will receive **weekly spellings** and a **mental math sheet** on Fridays for you to practise, share and complete with your child each day. This will start on <u>Friday 25th September</u>. Please ensure that you start the mental math sheet at the weekend and leave the Friday slot free for testing.

Finally, please can I remind you that children should only be bringing in to school their lunch box, a **named** drinks bottle and their book bag to carry their reading book and spelling/mental math homework. If your child does not have a book bag, we have plenty of plastic wallets that they can use. Please <u>do not</u> send your child with a backpack as we have limited space in our classroom "bubble" and they can be a health and safety issue.

As always, thank you for your co-operation and continued support, especially during this uncertain time. Please email if you have any concerns or questions and I will try to respond as quickly as I can. My email address is: <u>squirrels@bourton.dorset.sch.uk</u>.