

AUTUMN TERM 2020



Welcome to the Butterflies class,

A very big warm welcome to you all! I am really looking forward to our new exciting adventures together. It has been lovely to welcome you into the classroom over the past two days so that your child can become more familiar with their new surroundings. I look forward to seeing you all together on Monday morning where the fun will begin!

This newsletter contains useful information about what you should expect from the Autumn Term. As a school, we have been working towards making the environment Covid secure, and for the reception children this means we are forming our own 'bubble'. We are also part of a wider KS1 bubble, so the children will be able to interact with children in year 1 and 2 at playtimes. Details of further steps we have taken are outlined in the Headteacher's newsletters and this information can be found online on the school website. Rest assured, the environment we have created is warm, welcoming, engaging and full of fun with the health and wellbeing of the children at the forefront.

We will begin the term with play, play and more play! There will be lots of opportunities for socialising and getting used to our surroundings, new routines and each other. I will be organising a range of activities to help me learn more about your child and their interests. In week three, we will be introducing more formal steps of teaching into our daily inputs. Part of each day will be a daily 'catch up' activity to reinforce learning each day. As we are unable to meet as a whole school for worship, we will be having our own daily class worship and gold book celebrations. Gold book is where a child is celebrated and recognised each week for doing something that we are all very proud of.

Each child will have their own book "My learning journey" which acts as a learning journal. In these books we will keep evidence of your child's learning and samples of work or photographs of what they have been doing.

Alongside this, we will be using an online journal called Tapestry. This is a fabulous online tool which you can access from home and see all of the fun things we have been up to! On Tapestry, you may see videos, photographs and observations we have made and this will give you a great insight into school life. The two methods we use work simultaneously to build a profile of your child throughout their first school year. You will receive more information about how to set up your account in the next couple of weeks once we are all settled in.

We value any contribution that you would like to make to this in helping us meet your child's needs. You can record these moments using Tapestry, or alternatively, their home school learning/reading diary. If your child does something fantastic at home you can write it down and share it with us. We would love to see!

As set out in the new guidelines, we will be offering a telephone/zoom call with you in the autumn term to discuss how your child has settled in and their progress so far. This will replace the usual parents evening. If you have any concerns before then please don't hesitate to contact, myself, Mrs Bax, by email or the school office.

This year our reception class have time reserved for **PE on Thursday afternoons** and these will begin on the 10th September. Can we please ask that your child comes to school wearing their kit on this day. These sessions will be led by our sports coach from Elite sports. However, physical development

happens every day in our Early Years environment and Adult Directed activities planned to develop children's gross and fine motor skills.

During the term we will be gradually introducing the children to reading books. It is vital for your child's literacy development that you listen to your child read as often as possible at home. If your child is not ready for a reading book we will let them choose a picture to take home which they can share with you and discuss. The books they will receive to begin with will be Oxford Reading Tree picture books, then word books will be slowly introduced as we begin our phonics lessons in school. When we have begun our phonics lessons, the sounds we have been focusing upon will be sent home for you to practise with your child. When we begin to record the letters, we will be adopting the cursive script. I will send more information about the teaching of phonics in the upcoming weeks.

Your child's reading record is a great way of recording what they have read at home and school, it is also a way you can communicate any concerns, questions or positive comments you have about your child's reading.

Please remember to put your child's name on EVERY item of uniform. If some of your child's uniform goes missing we have a much greater chance of returning to you if a name is clearly printed on it.

Our Day

As explained, Mrs Bax is lead teacher in the morning with Mrs Coley in the afternoon. In the early years we take every opportunity to merge areas of learning together, educating the whole child. In the autumn term, morning sessions will begin with a musical funky fingers session, followed by Phonics, Shine time, then Numeracy/Literacy. We will also have a weekly RE and PSHE lesson. Afternoon sessions throughout the week will focus on other curricular areas such as ICT, PE, and daily Guided Reading. The children will have opportunities, both morning and afternoon to engage in free play which we call 'Shine time' where we will be adopting an 'In the Moment Planning' method.

What is 'In the Moment Planning'?

Children are most engaged when they are undertaking activities that are child initiated and based on children's current interests. When children show high levels of involvement, that is when there is progress and development occurring - when the brain is at its most active. Planning in the moment helps to make this possible. By providing an open ended and enabling environment supported by skilful staff we are able to seize the moment when a child shows a level of interest and curiosity. We can then draw out and extend these moments. Different children will engage in a range of ways, 'In the Moment Planning' ensures that every child's experiences are acknowledged and built upon.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me on the school email address, admin@bodsham.kent.sch.uk or alternatively phone the office to arrange a telephone appointment.

I am really looking forward to learning more about your child and welcoming you into our school community.

Kind regards,

Mrs Bax
Mrs Coley