

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back! We hope you had a fantastic summer and are ready for a busy term. This year there are 3 year 1 and 2 classes as follows:

Class	Year Group	Teacher(s)	Support Staff
Wrens	1	Miss Crooks (Mrs Holgate on Tuesdays)	Miss Wilson
Skylarks	1/2	Mrs Chapman (Mrs Holgate on Wednesdays)	Mrs Page
Robins	2	Mr Austin-Guest	Mrs Reid and Mrs Maidment

## Our Curriculum

After successfully introducing the *Success for All* (SFA) approach to teaching English last year, children will continue working in SFA groups for the first 90 minutes of every day.

Alongside our daily SFA lessons and back in classes, key learning includes:

Maths	Using the <i>Maths Mastery</i> approach, key learning includes: Place value, counting in 2s, 5s and 10s, addition, subtraction, measuring height and length and some work on shapes and patterns.
Science	Materials – linking this to toys and the materials used to make them; Humans, animals and their basic needs; The senses.
Computing	Revising e-safety rules and how to keep safe online. Using internet searches in topic lessons – researching our local area and beyond, toys and homes.
Topic	Me, My Home, My Toys: where we live and the wider world; similarities and differences between homes and toys now and in the past; different types of homes; making simple toys and games.
RE	A variety of religious celebrations will be explored and discussed. Children will gain an understanding of different religions and compare these to their way of celebrating special events and festivals.
PSHE	The 3 core values of ambition, respect and commitment; work on the 5 SFA cooperative learning goals plus listening skills and conflict resolution. We will also be introducing a new and exciting initiative called <i>Commando Joe</i> ..... watch this space for more details!

## PE

Children will be participating in indoor and outdoor PE this term and PE kits need to be in school throughout the week. For indoor PE children will need blue or black shorts and a school t-shirt with logo. For outdoor PE they will need trainers (not plimsolls) and may wear tracksuit bottoms and a sweatshirt on cold days. At all times hair should be tied back and earrings removed. If the child cannot remove their own earrings, please ensure they are covered on PE days. **Please ensure that every item of PE kit and school uniform are clearly named.**

On most weeks, PE will take place on the following days:

Wrens Class - Monday and Friday  
Skylarks Class – Monday and Tuesday  
Robins Class – Tuesday and Thursday

### **Reading and Library Books**

Children will be given an opportunity to change their reading books on most days. We would encourage you to read with your child at home 3-4 times per week, recording any reading shared in the Reading Journal. Reads will be counted on a weekly basis and children who have read 3 times or more will receive a special Class Dojo point! Reading with children includes asking questions, making predictions and talking about their own thoughts and feelings towards the story or text. If you would like any advice as how to help with your child's reading, please do not hesitate to ask. Children will also have an opportunity to change their school library books most weeks:

Wrens Class - Tuesday  
Skylarks Class – Wednesday  
Robins Class – Monday

Please feel free to read other books you may own at home, not just school reading books. A visit to the town library is also a fantastic (and free!) learning opportunity.

### **Drinks and Snacks**

Please could we ask you to name your child's drink bottles. They are kept in a central place and are much easier to distribute if they are named. We actively encourage children to bring their own drinks bottle to school as this helps to ensure they have easier access to water throughout the school day. A sturdy, refillable, plastic bottle is preferable. Children will continue to receive a free piece of fruit each day, although they may bring their own healthy snack if preferred. On a Friday, children are allowed to bring in a 'naughty snack' of a suitable size.

### **Best Efforts Assemblies**

These special celebration assemblies will continue to be held fortnightly on a Friday from 9.10am. As usual, teachers will choose a couple of children to receive 'Best Effort' awards and parents/carers will be invited to attend. Like last year, each class will be taking it in turns to briefly and informally share some of their learning and parents/carers are warmly encouraged to attend. Reminders will be sent home nearer the time, but here are the following dates for your diaries:

**Wrens** – Friday 19<sup>th</sup> October

**Skylarks** – Friday 5<sup>th</sup> October

**Robins** – Friday 21<sup>st</sup> September

### **Share Afternoons (2-3.15pm)**

These are fantastic opportunities to come to school and work with your children on a fun and exciting art and craft project! Each class will open its doors to parents and carers (grandparents are also very welcome!) Dates are below:

**Wrens** – Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> November

**Skylarks** – Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> November

**Robins** – Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> November

### **Maths With Parents** ([www.mathswithparents.com](http://www.mathswithparents.com))

This is a new resource that will allow you to work with your children at home on a computer, laptop, tablet or smart phone. We will be launching it over the next few weeks and you are warmly invited to attend an information session to find out more on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> September, 2.45pm.

### **Year 1 Phonics Screen and Year 2 SATs**

Although these are a long way off and we will talk to you about them more over the course of the year, these assessments will take place in May/June 2019:

Y1 Phonics Screen – All Year 1 children will be tested on 40 words (a mixture of real and nonsense, or alien, words). We practise this every day as part of our SFA lessons. Those children in Year 2 who didn't reach the expected pass rate (34 marks) will re-take this test.

Y2 SATs – These are not as scary as they sound! We don't call them tests and children are used to completing similar questions and activity booklets. Children are asked to complete reading and maths papers and they are

marked by us. All they do is help us inform our end-of-year teacher assessments, where we assess whether children are working towards, working at or working beyond expected standards.

We look forward to meeting you all formally at the Parents Evenings later this term. Meanwhile, if you have any queries, concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to ask. We will be using Class Dojo to send messages, reminders and share some of our learning. If you are not yet signed up to Class Dojo, please ask us and we'll help you – it's quick, easy and free!

We hope that this year will be an exciting, enriching and rewarding year for everybody and we very much hope that you will join us in helping to make this happen.

Best wishes and thank you in anticipation for your support,

Mr Austin-Guest, Mrs Chapman and Miss Crooks  
The Key Stage 1 Team