

Dear Parents,

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome you and your child to Castle Hill and the Reception year. We are delighted to finally meet you all properly and look forward to getting to know you and your children. We will do our very best to make sure your children have a happy and successful start to the year. We will hold a coffee morning on Wednesday 11th October-11-12am. We will keep in contact with you via Seesaw, the website and newsletters. Please make sure you read them each week.

Our topic this term is Rhythm and Rhyme. During this half term, we will be assessing your child's capabilities and achievements so far. We are implementing a letter and sounds programme called 'Floppy's Phonics'. It is an interactive and exciting way to teach phonics and will start on the 2nd October. The new sounds will be posted on our classroom door.

PE will be on alternate Wednesday afternoons. Your children will need to bring their kits (house coloured t-shirt and shorts) in a clearly labelled in a bag and leave this in school for the half term. A spare pair of pants and socks can be very useful! In addition to this they will be participating in the daily mile.

Forest School is on alternate Wednesday afternoons. Please provide your children with named welly boots. We hope to start these sessions after half-term. To enable them to go ahead we will need a minimum of 4 parent helpers. Please let us know if you are interested.

For this half term, we will have snack time in the classroom. The school provides a piece of fruit or vegetable for each child daily. After half term, your child will have their snack outside at playtime. Please provide a named water bottle for your child so that a drink is easily accessible during the school day. For healthy teeth and minds, we would like to remind you that only water is allowed at school. The bottle comes home every night for a swish round and replenished ready for the next day. Bottles can be refilled at school.

Each child will be choosing 2 books to bring home to share with you on a Monday. Please note that this is a book to share, we do not expect your child to read the words yet! We would ask you to encourage your child to discuss what is happening in the story /picture books. We are aiming to develop, at this stage, a love of books ready for learning to read at school. Please write a comment in the yellow home reading record, e.g. Jack likes the story and he talked about the pictures. The bookbag and books need to come to school every day.

Mrs. Houlston will be working Monday, Tuesday and alternate Wednesdays and Mrs. Warren alternate Wednesdays, Thursday, and Friday. Our teaching assistant is Mrs. Boulter, she works every day. Mrs. Blunn works on a Tuesday and Wednesday afternoon. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us via the school office.