



4th November 2016

Dear Parents/Carers,

We would like to welcome you back to Briary after what we hope has been enjoyable and relaxing break for you all. During this time, two beautiful new kitchens were fitted in our Infant Library and Year R/1 shared areas, which have added a high-spec feeling to these spaces and will also help to improve our storage. The teachers and TAs were busy too, with training and preparing classrooms.

This term, our main topics are as follows:

Foundation Stage classes will begin their topic of '**Marvellous Minibeasts**' and will be reading 'Yucky Worms' by Vivian French and 'Aaaargh Spider' by Lydia Monks. The children have made a super start to their phonics learning. This term, they will be learning lots of new sounds as well as consolidating those we introduced in Term 1. They will continue to practise their word building skills (segmenting and blending) every day. Those children who are ready for a new challenge will be introduced to the Rainbow spelling scheme.

In maths the children will continue to consolidate numbers to 10 (and beyond), learning to recognise, order and write the numerals.

The children will also continue their seasonal learning and also plan to do some Christmas baking as they learn about how we celebrate different festivals.

Leo the Learning Lion will continue to update parents about learning in school via the Facebook page. In addition, following such positive feedback about the children's WOW books at Parents Evening, we have decided to offer you the chance to share these books with your children more frequently. The Reception classes will be open for informal drop in sessions after school on Fridays until 3.30pm. We wouldn't expect you to come every week, just as and when you wanted. Please speak to us if you work every Friday and you would like us to try to arrange an alternative.

This term's Year 1 topic is '**Let's Celebrate**'. We will explore the history of Bonfire Night, and discuss how we celebrate it today, and will create our own firework celebration painting in art. As Christmas comes closer, we will be looking at how Christmas was celebrated in the past, and how we celebrate it today. In English we will be studying 'Beegu' by Alexis Deacon. We will continue to focus on the primary skills of capital letters, finger spaces and full stops, and will begin to increase our use of adjectives (describing words). In RE we will be looking at the story of the Nativity – which we shall be performing at the end of the term. In PHSE we will look at medicines. During maths we will be looking at addition and subtraction bonds, and addition and subtraction within 20 to solve problems, and will begin to look at multiplication and division. We will also look at shape, position and directions. Donaldson Class will start their swimming lessons on Tuesday 8th November, which will run for 6 weeks. Jeffers and Donaldson will have their PE lesson on Thursdays, and Jeffers will have Games on Mondays.



Year 2 classes will learn about the Plague and the Great Fire of London. Our workshop on **Tuesday 22nd November** will inspire the children and help them with writing recounts about events of that time. Our text for the term, 'The Great Fire' by Jill Atkins, will also help the children to develop their empathy and understanding of how people must have felt during these times. In maths, we will launch into learning our times tables. The focus for Year 2 is the 2, 5 and 10 times tables. We will also learn about division as sharing, 2D and 3D shapes and telling the time to five minute intervals. Our science topic is 'Uses of Everyday Materials'. The children will learn to identify and compare the suitability of a variety of everyday materials, including wood, metal, plastic, glass, brick, rock, paper and cardboard for particular uses. Also, to find out how the shapes of solid objects made from some materials can be changed by squashing, bending, twisting and stretching.

BIG APOLOGIES for the misprint on our Flat Stanley note!!

This was meant to read **'June 2017'**.

Flat Stanley would like to keep travelling until June **2017!**



In Years 1 and 2 PSHE, we will learn about 'Me and Drugs and Medicine', which covers the importance of taking medicine and who gives it to us. This will be pitched at a level appropriate to the age of the children; we will deal sensitively with any issues that arise.

Across the Infants, we will be looking at Christmas traditions and sharing Christmas stories, songs and poems towards the end of term. **Here are some important diary dates for the festive season:**

- Year 2 Christmas Show, at St. Peter's Church in Greenhill: **Thursday 8th December** at 10 a.m.
- Year 1 Christmas Nativity at Briary: **Thursday 15th December** at 10am.
- Year R Sing Song and Cake at Briary: **Friday 16th December** – p.m. (details to follow).



Home learning

The children in the Infants all have Learning Journals, which they bring home. Teachers use these to give challenges for the children and to let parents know what topics we are covering. The children really enjoy showing their books in school and it is a good way for them to talk to you about their school activities. Some parents also like to put other entries in, for example if they have been on a day trip or it has been their birthday. That is absolutely fine!

The **most important** thing you can do to support your child at school is to read with them regularly. We encourage the children to change their books whenever necessary and are happy for them to do so every day if they wish. Every Friday we check their Home Reading Record and all the children who have read **at least** three times a week will be put on the Star Readers chart. As they earn more and more stars they will receive prizes!

Workshops

We will be running workshops for Year R, 1 and 2 parents on the following days:

Reading and Phonics: **16th November** at 10 a.m.

Maths: **2nd December** at 10 a.m.

Uniform

As the weather gets worse, all the children are asked to wear a coat to school each day. We go out in all weathers and it is important that they are warm enough. Finally, a polite reminder that all clothing should be named including all items of PE kit, which should be left in school. Some children have still not brought their P.E kits back into school this term and they do need it every week.

Reminders

Please always phone the office first thing if your child is going to be absent (e.g. they are too ill to come to school). This means that we know your child is safe. If you don't phone and we can't get hold of you and your child is not in school, we don't know they are safe.

We would like to take this opportunity to remind you that Briary Primary School is a **Nut Free School** due to the fact that several of our pupils have severe, life-threatening allergies to nuts including:- peanuts, peanut butter, Nutella and other chocolate spreads, pecans, walnuts, nut oils, nut flavourings etc., body lotions, shampoos etc. containing any nuts. Touching, smelling or eating any of these items may provoke a severe allergic reaction. Therefore, for the safety of these pupils we have asked all our parents not to send any food containing these items to school. We do understand this can be problematic, but do thank all our parents for their understanding and co-operation in this matter.

Dates for your Diary!



Term 2

DATE	LOCATION	EVENT	TIME
Monday 7 th November		After School Activities start	3.00-4.00pm
Tuesday 8 th November	Herons	Donaldson Class Swimming Lesson	
Tuesday 15 th November	Herons	Donaldson Class Swimming Lesson	
Tuesday 15 th November	New Hall	2017 Reception Starters Open Morning	9.15-10.45am
Wednesday 16 th November	New Hall	2017 Reception Starters Open Morning	9.30-11.00am
Tuesday 22 nd November	Herons	Donaldson Class Swimming Lesson	
Tuesday 29 th November	Herons	Donaldson Class Swimming Lesson	
Friday 2 nd December		After School Activities Finish	
Tuesday 6 th December	Herons	Donaldson Class Swimming Lesson	
Thursday 8 th December	St Peter's Church	Year 2 Christmas Show	10.00-11.00am
Tuesday 13 th December	Herons	Donaldson Class Swimming Lesson	

Thursday 15 th December	New Hall	Infant Nativity	2.30 pm
Tuesday 20 th December	Hérons	Ahlberg Class Swimming Lesson	
Wednesday 21 st December	Old Hall	Infant Christmas Party	
Wednesday 21 st December		Last Day of Term 2	

Many thanks

Infant staff