



MIDHURST C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mr M Barnes

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> September

Dear Parents,

We are now at the end of our first week in school and your children have been absolutely amazing! They have had to absorb a huge amount of new information and learn about and adapt to routines in school. They have taken it all in their stride and I should imagine that a quiet, restful weekend will now be needed!

In the Reception class we work within the Early Years Foundation Stage framework and cover the six areas of learning. These are:

Personal, Social and Development

Communication, Language and Literacy

Problem Solving, Reasoning and Numeracy

Knowledge and Understanding of the World

Physical development

Creative Development

This term our topic is 'Changes'. We will think about the differences between their Nursery schools and 'big' school, look at how they have changed since they were babies, look at changes in materials and think about the seasons.

With this in mind, would it be possible for you to send in a photo of your child ( a scan or photocopy is fine) when they were a baby and when they were at the toddler stage. I will need this before half term.

**Important!** At the moment we are focusing on correct pencil grip (only one finger at the top - please feel free to ask if you are not too sure what I mean) and learning to write their own name. This must be done with a capital letter at the beginning and then lower case letters only after that.

**Reading folders** - every child now has a reading folder with a home/ school log book. Please feel free to write in the log book when you have shared a book/ heard your child read. It is also a very good way of communicating with the staff if there is something you need to tell us. A quick comment of 'there is a note in the log book' first thing in the morning is easier to say when it is hectic at 8.55am!

We will try to hear your child read as much as is possible in school, but our timetable may not always allow us to hear the whole class each day, so your support at home is much appreciated.

**Lunchtime** - the children have been really sensible and seem fine in the dinner hall. Lunch boxes with things in them that are healthy and also easy to open are a good idea. The school dinners (a main course and pudding) look delicious and are good sized portions. Several children in the class are having them.

**Boot bags** - The children will be given a free boot bag when they bring a pair of wellies into school for playtimes. However, don't worry about bringing them in at the moment as, for the safety of your child, we are restricting the Reception class to the lower playground only. The field and top playground would

be a daunting place to be at this moment in the school term! We will let you know when the wellies are needed.

**School library** – We will be visiting the school library on a weekly basis starting next week. Please could your child keep this book in their reading folder too, as the day that they visit it could be different each week.

We will visit the Midhurst library in the Spring term when the weather is hopefully better.

**Parent helpers** – It would be lovely to have parents coming in to help the class. To begin with it would be to hear the children read. Several mums have already offered which is great. Thank you. However, if any of you have any wonderful talents (eg, art, gardening) that you feel you would like to share with us please tell us! You will need to have a CRB check if you do come and help and forms will be given to you by the school bursar. If you think or we think that it may unsettle your child if you come in, then it may be best to leave it for a while.

**Dates for your diary –**

28.9.10 – school photographer

6.10.10 – Open afternoon/evening

25.10.10 – 29.10.10 – Half term

2.11.10 PTA AGM

15.11.10 / 16.11.10 Parents evening

**10.12.10 – Reception coffee morning (information later on in the term)**

14.12.10 School Carol Service – Midhurst Parish Church 6.30pm

17.12.10 PTA Fun day – End of term

Finally, I would like to say a HUGE thank you to you all for making the transition from nursery to school so easy for your child, especially in the mornings when you leave quickly. It really does make all the difference. There may be 'wobbles' as the term progresses and your child is tired, so be prepared! I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know them all this week.

Thank you,

Mrs. S Pickett