

# Explorers – Rainforest and the Poles

## Base 1 – EYFS

### Autumn Term 2019

Dear children, parents and carers,



Welcome back to school. I hope you all had a fantastic summer holiday and that you are ready to get stuck into a new school year. Our whole school Learning Journey theme this term is Explorers and our first class book will be *We're going on a bear hunt*. We will begin our Learning Journey by exploring different environments, exploring textures, seasons, weather and habitats along the way. After that the children will pick a new class book (based on our 'explorers' theme) and we will ask them what they want to learn about alongside us exploring far off lands, from the rainforest to the Polar Regions, while also learning about what an explorer is, what they need to do their job and what they need to survive out in the wild. I have provided an overview of some of the learning opportunities the children will be experiencing across the term in Base 1's holistic Learning Journey overview.

This term we will be explorers, campers (I'm sure you've heard about the tent!), scientists and artists. EYFS is all about learning through play and immersing the children in a stimulating environment where learning is fun and making mistakes is ok. Your child will continue to develop their independence, build greater confidence and enthusiasm for school and their learning. We are excited to get started as the EYFS team!

Now in our reception class, your child will become fully involved and immersed in all our school activities; these include having a 'buddy' and being part of a Well-being Lunch Club.

### Buddies

Something very special for all our reception children is having a buddy. This is a child in Y6 who has been carefully chosen to support your child through their first year at Wrenbury Primary School. Across the school week they will spend time together: sharing a story; playing together; going on the Wrenbury Walk. We have found that these buddy friendships become mutually very strong and the children really do care for and about each other. Please don't be surprised if you find that your child's buddy has written in your child's reading record – it is something we encourage as we all learn together.

### Well-being Lunch Club

Not only will your child continue to attend our school assemblies but they will also be included in our Well-being Lunch Clubs. Once a week, each club (a group of children from YR-Y6) will meet for lunch with a teacher / teaching assistant other than myself, Mrs Griffin or Mrs Agnew. The whole school will follow a theme based on wellbeing and this also allows all our children to build their confidence, self-esteem and wider friendship groups as well as give them another adult in school they can feel confident to share their worries or concerns with.

### Now for the routines of the day:

#### Arrival at school

Good attendance is necessary for good progress. Please ensure your child arrives between **8:45 and 8:55am** ready to start the day. I will meet and greet your child at the EYFS gate and once they are inside, they will be met by Mrs Griffin and Mrs Agnew who will help settle your child ready for registration and a smooth transition into the start of the school day.

#### Monies and messages

We ask that messages and monies come into school via myself or one of our EYFS team. This is to assist Mrs Rowlands and Mrs Hughes in the office. Please ensure money is in an envelope and clearly labelled. Please do use Parentmail for payments, where possible. Thank you.

### **Clothing**

As your child is now in reception, your child is now expected to wear the full school uniform now that they are in our reception class. Please ensure longer hair is tied back – headband, bobble or clip. Footwear should be sturdy and supportive enough for a range of activities and weathers. We all know the weather is very changeable at this time of year. Therefore, appropriate clothing must be in school; in particular, a warm/waterproof **coat** should be brought/worn to school every day.

### **Water Bottle**

Please do send your child to school with a labelled water bottle. We need to ensure your child is drinking enough water across the school day.

### **Snack**

A breakfast snack will be available for Mrs Warner at break times each day. You can either send snack money with your child in a labelled purse with your child OR send in a larger sum eg £5 which will be given to Mrs Warner and from which the snack amount your child spends each day will be deducted. If you would prefer for your child to bring a snack from home please ensure that it is a healthy snack as we are promoting healthy living.

We provide a daily fruit snack and milk in the afternoon for all our reception children.

### **Lunchtimes**

If your child is in Little Wrens and is booked in over the lunch time, please order a school lunch (£2.40 per day) or send your child with a healthy packed lunch. As your child has moved into our Base 1 reception class, they are entitled to a 'universal free school meal' so can order a school lunch paid at no cost to yourself. If you would prefer for your child to bring their own lunch box, we ask that you fill it with healthy food options.

### **PE**

PE lessons will begin next week so we need everyone's PE kit in school please. All items of clothing should be clearly labelled, down to socks and pants as well please! At some point they will misplace something and, if it's not labelled, finding its owner can be extremely difficult.

### **Phonics**

Having settled in, next week we will begin our daily phonic lessons for all children in EYFS. This is where they will learn the letter names and sounds and will learn how to segment words, sound them out and blend them together. As children progress in these phonic lessons their reading should improve as they become more fluent with each sound and their confidence should grow. Sometimes phonics can be very confusing for parents as there is lots of new language like: phoneme, digraph, trigraph, sound out and blend etc. Please do not worry about this as more information will follow to support you, if needed.

### **Reading**

All the children have brought home two reading books and a reading diary. Each week, we will read with your child in school and make a note of it in their reading diary, so you can keep up with their progress. Children all learn at a different rate and our support in reading will reflect this. Books will be changed twice a week and we will encourage the children to take the lead on this, whilst ensuring at least one book is matched to their stage of learning in phonics. We want the children to have a love of books and reading for pleasure and allowing the children to choose their own books supports this.

### **Mystery Reader**

This year I would like to start Mystery Reader on a regular basis. This is where we invite a parent in to read to the children but we keep it secret so no one knows who it is going to be. Then we do a big reveal and the children get the joy of having a family member coming in to read to their class. As people work and might not be free on certain days there is not going to be a specific day for Mystery Reader, I would just like to have 1 Mystery Reader each week. If you are free on any day from 3 o'clock and would like to come in and share some of your child's favourite stories please let me know.

### **Parent Helpers**

If you would like to come into school to help at any point that would be most appreciated. You could listen to readers, help with phonics or play English or Maths games. We could always use the help. Equally if you have a special skill, if you sew, or bake, if you can juggle or ride the unicycle, if you have an important or unusual job or play a musical instrument, if you have pets that you could bring in to talk about or you speak a different language we would love for you to come into school to share your skills. At Wrenbury we want to forge links in the community and we always take the opportunity to enhance the children's learning through exciting visitors and real life scenarios. No skill is too small; please don't be shy, come and share and make a child's day by letting them experience something new and unknown.

### **Sharing**

Please do keep us up to date with any changes or potential upsets your child may be experiencing that may impact on their demeanour, emotions or wellbeing. This may include a family illness, bereavement (including pets), moving house, parental separation, issues with a sibling etc. This information will be received in confidence and will help us give your child any support they may need.

Any changes to your contact details eg a change of mobile number, as they happen should be given to the office so that we are able to contact you and our records are kept up to date. Thank you.

### **Important date for your diary**

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> September** at 6pm – *How to help settle your child in to their learning* - for EYFS and KS1 parents led by Miss McKinnon and myself. A crèche/childcare will be made available so that you can attend.

Every member of the Wrenbury Team very much look forward to working with you to ensure your child's learning journey in the primary years at Wrenbury has a fantastic start and a great foundation. We have an open door policy in school and in EYFS so if you do have any worries or questions or want to discuss something please don't hesitate to let us know.

Thank you very much,  
Mr Morrison and the EYFS team