

Dear children and parents/carers,

I hope that you all had a lovely Easter (with lots of chocolate and fun!) and are all ready for another busy term, I have got lots of exciting learning planned for you!

As you know, our school day starts at 8:55am and I will be at the gate ready to meet you from 8:45am, please do arrive promptly. The children come in to a reading focussed morning activity which is a really important for us to talk through the day's learning and prepare as a class for the day ahead. Please do also use this 'meet and greet' time in the morning to pass me any messages, letters or monies rather than sending them directly to the office.

Teaching and Learning

We have a whole school theme each term, this term it is 'Around the World'. We will be learning specifically about the different countries that make up the British Isles. We will have a 3 week focus on each country, each lead by a different text to inspire us. These texts include *The Naughty Bus* by Jan and Jerry Oke, *The Dragon Machine* by Helen Ward, *Grandad's Secret Giant* by David Lichfield and a selection of the Katie Morag stories by Mairi Hedderwick. Each of these texts will provide us with different opportunities to develop our writing and comprehension skills, but I am also hoping that the children will find something wonderful within these stories that will inspire their learning across the whole curriculum.

Many of the curriculum subjects have been woven together to make our learning more meaningful this term. The holistic Summer term overview gives a flavour of the work we will be covering.

We love to be outside in Base 1 and do have a beautiful outside learning environment to make use of, so please do bring a coat to school, even if the morning is bright and sunny as you leave home. We will go outside and explore whatever the weather and we also have a garden area in Base 1 that now needs a bit of care after all this grotty weather! I know that many of you do keep a set of wellies at school and this is a brilliant idea, if you don't have any in school and would like to bring some then please do so.

Here is our **weekly timetable** for this term:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Session 1	Phonics Literacy	Phonics Literacy	Phonics Literacy	Phonics Literacy	Phonics Numeracy French - Mrs Sharpe
Morning break					
Session 2	Numeracy	Numeracy	Numeracy	Numeracy	Reading
Lunch - 1 hr					
15 min assemblies	Assembly	Assembly	PE – Mrs Griffin	Learning Journey	Handwriting/ motor skills
Session 3	Handwriting/ motor skills	Handwriting/ motor skills			PE
Session 4	Learning journey	Learning Journey	Show and tell – Mrs Griffin		Stars of the week Assembly

Note: Learning Journey time will be used to cover the other subjects - Science, geography, history, computing, art, D&T and music.

PE: Please be prepared for PE with a full kit - red tee-shirt, black shorts and trainers. A sweatshirt/joggers in grey/black/ navy for the colder sessions is recommended.

Every child goes to a well-being club once a week at lunch time with an adult who they do not see every day in their classroom. It is a lovely opportunity for the children to spend time with children from other classes and have another adult to touch base with.

Do check the school website as often as possible to keep you up to date with events at school. I will write a regular news feed so you can see all the exciting things we have been up to in Base 1.

Regular homework

- **Daily reading** – please do make time to read together as much as possible. It is really important for the children read little and often to build up their stamina. Sharing books and reading to your children is also really important as it is an opportunity to talk about the words and what is happening as well as letting the children hear you read fluently. When you read please do make a note in your child's yellow reading record, just the title of the book and your initials is fine or you might like to mention anything they have done really well or struggled with. We will also write in the reading record when we read with your child at school so please do bring it in each day.
- **Key rings** – each child has a key ring with their name on some words they are learning. These are words that they must learn to 'sight read', which means they can read them straight away without sounding out and in any order. Some Y1 children will also be learning to spell their words. If you can, please practise these words every day.
- **Spellings** – spelling tests will be on a Thursday during phonics lessons. The new spellings for the week will then be sent home on a Friday. Some reception children will start to receive some words to learn this term.
- **Maths** – year 1 children will receive a short maths task to consolidate learning in class each week. This will be given out on a Monday and due in each Friday.
- **Additional homework** – I may set some additional homework to support our learning in class. This might be a creative, making or finding out task.

I would be grateful if you could encourage and support your children with these tasks at home, they will all designed to either consolidate learning we have done in class or in preparation for something we will be doing.

Snack

Snack is available for Mrs Warner at break times each day, but if your child wants to bring a snack from home please ensure that it is a healthy snack as we are promoting healthy living. In support of the government's 'Obesity Strategy' (August 2016) to promote a healthy diet, chocolate, sweets and crisps are not allowed for snack.

Parent partnership

As you all know, good parent partnership is key to your child's success at Wrenbury. I think that communication between parents and teachers is so important for a child's progress and well-being. Please do let me know of anything that might have happened that you think might have upset or might impact your child at school. It always helps to be informed and I am happy to help in any way that I can. Of course, I also like to hear about all of the lovely things the children have been up to, and I am sure they will keep me up to date when we have anything to celebrate!

I will always be available at the gate for a quick chat in the mornings or at home time. Please do not hesitate to catch me then, or we can arrange a mutually convenient time to talk.

I have included with my newsletter a lovely list of activities called '100 things to do before you are 6'. I was given this on a recent training course and thought that it was just too fabulous just to keep to myself. We will definitely be doing some of these things in school this term, but I thought you might enjoy some of the ideas at home too – have fun!

Kind regards,
Miss Pitchford