

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you for all your presents and cards. We hope you had a lovely Christmas break and a magical time with your family. A warm welcome from us all to our new children and their families, in Little Wrens.

We return to school in a new decade and have an exciting term of learning planned around our whole school theme 'Discover'. We will be making lots of discoveries around a story character that has been loved by children for six decades! Paddington Bear has delighted children and will, no doubt, delight our youngest children at Wrenbury. Our Learning Journey for Little Wrens and Base 1 for this term is based on two of the Paddington Bear stories; the original story and also Paddington at the Palace. At the start of the week, finding clues in our outdoor learning environment brought lots of excitement as the children discovered bear prints and other clues. We have posted photos on our news page on the school website if you haven't yet seen them. The children have already been engaged and excited about learning where Paddington came from - 'darkest Peru' - and about other bears and where they live and we have lots more wonderful learning to come.

Our learning environments will offer a range of exciting and engaging learning opportunities for all the children relevant to their stage of development and with clear links to the stories. Please see the termly plan for an overview of some of the learning the children will undertake. If you feel you can contribute towards our Learning Journey in any way (artefacts / books / photos, support in class with a particular skill etc.), it would be warmly welcomed.

To support your child's learning, please do:

- **talk to and with your child** as much as possible; encourage your child to speak in full sentences and help them to articulate their sounds and words clearly. Talk helps to support turn taking, vocabulary development and children's social skills.
- **share books and stories**; talk about the pictures in a story book and ask lots of questions, read with and to your child daily and make it an enjoyable experience.
- work on the children's **tricky words** [YR] to increase their sight vocabulary
- **count** and play games

To support your child's independence, please do:

- encourage your child to **carry their own belongings** to and from school
- help them learn to **fasten and unfasten their coat** (buttons and zips) and **change their clothing including** putting shoes on the correct feet.

### Expectations - reminders

#### *Monies and messages*

All monies and messages should come into school via the teaching staff in EYFS to assist Mrs Rowlands and Mrs Hughes in the office at the start of the day. If possible, it would benefit the office if you were able to use Parentmail.

#### *Snack*

For the morning break, the children will need to bring a healthy snack. This can be available from Mrs Warner at a small cost. The school provides an afternoon fruit snack and milk.

### *School Lunch*

All children in Base 1 (YR) are entitled to a free school meal each day. Children in Little Wrens must pay for their hot lunch (£2.40). You may prefer for your child to bring a healthy packed lunch.

### *Water bottle*

We request that a labelled (name) water bottle is provided for your child to ensure they are drinking enough water across the school day.

### *Outdoor clothing*

We all know the weather is very changeable at this time of year. A warm/waterproof **coat** should be worn to school every day so that the children can play and learn outside as much as possible. Whilst school uniform is not compulsory for Little Wrens children, it is important that they wear clothing and especially footwear suitable for a day of play and learning in school including outdoor play – canvas/ summer / party type shoes are not suitable.

### *Physical activities*

All the children need to have a PE kit [red t-shirt, black shorts and pumps].

**Please label ALL clothing and shoes.** We can then return an item readily.

### *Home time Arrangements*

Please do notify school of any changes to home time arrangements at Meet or Greet in the morning or by phoning the school office.

### *Toys and special belongings*

We do not encourage children to bring in toys and special belongings in to school as we do not want your child to lose them or for them to get broken. If something can be shared eg Ollie bringing in his Paddington Bear to share with the class, that is fine, as the toy is then kept with the staff for safe keeping.

### **Open door**

Should you have any concerns, wish to share information that is relevant to your child's well-being or require additional information regarding your child and their learning or progress, do not hesitate to get in touch. One of the team will be on the EYFS gate every morning for Meet and Greet or you can arrange a time to meet at a time that is mutually convenient.

We are very much looking forward to an exciting and enjoyable Spring term with you and your child.

Happy New Year,

The Little Wrens and Base 1 Team