

Dear reception children, parents and carers,

I do hope that you all had a Christmas break full of fun and are now ready for a new term in Base 1!

Just a reminder that 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. We always have a morning activity ready and this time is 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

As you know, we have a whole school theme each term. The theme for the Spring term is 'Water'. In Base 1 we will be spending the first half term finding out about frozen lands (maybe we will also get a bit of snow to help with our learning!) and in the second half term we will learn about the rivers, ponds, canals and bogs we find closer to home.

We have a selection of wonderful texts to lead our learning this term, including *Poles Apart* by Jeanne Willis, *Lost and Found* by Oliver Jeffers, *Immi* by Karin Littlewood and *Bog Baby* by Jeanne Willis and Gwen Millward. Each of these texts will provide us with different opportunities to develop our literacy skills, but they will also inspire our learning across the whole curriculum. Using these texts as a focus, the EYFS areas of learning have been woven together to make our learning more meaningful. The holistic autumn term overview gives a flavour of the work we will be covering.

We are lucky to have a beautiful outside learning environment and will try to learn outside of the classroom as much as possible. 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; we also have a garden area in Base 1 that needs looking after! I know that many of you do have a set of wellies that you leave here at school for us to use, if you don't and have some you could bring, that would be brilliant. We ask that each day you bring your book bag to school with reading book, reading record, key ring and spelling book (see below). It is also helpful to bring a **named** water bottle. Please do write or label every piece of uniform and PE kit with your child's name clearly (this is especially useful when changing for PE!). We also ask that toys, pencil cases and stationary from home **do not** come to school as they are very easily lost.

Over the page is your **weekly timetable** for this term:

	M	T	W	T	F
8.45	Meet and greet/register	Meet and greet/register	Meet and greet/register	Meet and greet/register	Meet and greet/register
9.05	Phonics	Phonics	Phonics	Phonics	French
9.30	Detective time/my news	Literacy/ Continuous provision	Literacy/ Continuous provision	Literacy/ Continuous provision	Phonics
10.20	Break				
10.40	My news/continuous provision	Literacy/ Continuous provision	Literacy/ Continuous provision	Literacy/ Continuous provision	Muddy Friday - forest school/garden activities.
11.55	Lunch				
12.55	Register/assembly	Register/assembly	Register	Register	Register
1.10	Motor skills	Motor skills	Motor skills	Motor skills	Maths/ Continuous provision
1.30	Maths/ Continuous provision	PE	Maths/ Continuous provision	Maths/ Continuous provision	
3.00	Singing and story	Singing and story	Singing and story	Singing and story	Assembly

Note: All areas of learning are covered through the continuous provision and will often be linked with the literacy and maths input.

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 often write a news article with pictures from our week so that you can see all of the exciting things we have been doing.

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. Your children have a reading record, please do write in here when you have listened to your child read and use it to comment on how they are getting on or anything they found particularly difficult/easy. Please bring this to school each day as we will also record when your child has read in school.
- **Key rings** – each child has a key ring with their name on which holds the high frequency words that children in reception need to learn to read. These are words that should be ‘sight read’, which means they can read them straight away without sounding out and in any order. We will check how your child is getting on with these words each week and give them a new set of words when they can

read a full set. The children are rewarded with 10 team points each time they complete a set of words!

- **Phonics** – as we learn new sounds in phonics I will send these home in each child's spelling book. I will also include any tricky words that we have been learning to read and/or spell that week so that you can practise at home. Please first concentrate on reading the sounds/words and then work on writing them. The sounds/words will come home in a spelling book each Friday and I check how they are getting on each Thursday as part of the phonics lesson.

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

Snack

Snack is available from Mrs Warner at break times each day, you can send money daily for this or send a larger amount of money in a named envelope labelled 'snack' and with your child's name. This will be kept with Mrs Warner and you will receive a text when all of the money has been used up. If your child brings 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 will no longer be 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!

If you have any questions at all, I will always be available at the door 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 am really looking forward to another super term with the children in Base 1!

Kind regards,
Miss Pitchford