

Oldfield Primary School

Bray Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire, SL6 1UE

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Website: www.oldfieldprimary.com

Headteacher: Mrs Catherine Page



18th September 2023

Dear Lion & Zebra Parents/Carers,

We would like to start by welcoming our new parents/carers and welcoming back our parents/carers of children with older siblings at school. The Reception team are incredibly proud of how well the children have settled into their first full week in school.

The start of a new term is always exciting and the children will be learning lots of new routines and enjoying a variety of activities over the next few weeks.

Role Play areas

Our role play area will be set up as a Home Corner, a Classroom and then a Vets/Doctor's surgery. Children will be pretending to do cooking, writing, taking the register and looking after poorly animals and people etc.

You may like to help your child by doing some of the following activities with them:

Home Corner

- Cook a meal together
- Lay the table together
- Go to the supermarket
- Complete simple tasks at home (dusting, putting washing in the laundry basket, etc).

School

- Counting aloud or ordering the numbers 1-5 or 10
- Practising their phonic sounds that they have been learning in school
- Sharing a story together
- Practising writing their name

Vets/Doctors Surgery

- Talk about times you have visited the doctor's or a vet



- Talk about who you might meet at a surgery - doctors, nurses, vets and reception staff
- How doctors, nurses and vets help to look after us and our pets

We are sure these are going to be fun and interesting themes for all of us.

A few reminders:

- Children should bring their school bottle of water to school every day as well as a healthy fruit or vegetable snack (no nut products please) for mid-morning.
- All children must have a waterproof coat at school as they will be playing outside every day in all weathers. Please remember to name everything.
- Please send in a change of clothes for your child to remain in school, in the unlikely event that they may need changing
- We would be grateful for a donation of a box of tissues for the classroom
- Children will do PE on **Fridays** and are expected to wear their PE kit to school on this day.

Phonics & Home Learning

The children started learning their phonic sounds last week and we will be sending home their Little Wandle phonics home learning every Friday. This consists of a sheet of A4, recapping on the sounds that your child has learned in school that week. Please support your child by practising the new sounds and encouraging them to do the oral blending of simple words.

Fun Friday Books

On Fridays, we will also be sending home a Fun Friday book for you to share with your child. Your child will select a picture storybook or non-fiction book each Friday to share with you. These are books that our parents/carers will read with their child and are not phonically decodable books. Please can parents ensure that these books are returned to school on the following Monday. Thank you.

Purple Pages Book

We have also sent home a 'Purple Pages' book. Please remember to write a brief comment in the 'Purple Pages' book if you notice your child has acquired a new skill, developed a new interest or to tell us what your child has been doing at home. We really value your role as your child's primary educators and it will help us to plan for their learning at school. We will look at all the books each Monday morning and return them to you later that week.

Key Learning

During their first term in school, we will be settling the children in and building routines. This will include walks around the school environment and seasonal walks, exploring the world around us.

Our topic in the Autumn term is all about Me, My Family and People who help us and so we would like you to send in a photo of your child and how they have changed and a photo of your child and their family to help the children create their own family tree. Please could you send in the two photographs on **Monday 25th September**, to help support their learning. If you are unable to print off the photos, please come and speak to your child's class teacher.

Phonics & Reading Meeting

We would like to extend an invitation to all our parents and carers to attend a phonics and reading meeting on **Monday 2nd October at 9am**. At this meeting, we will share with you how we teach phonics using the Little Wandle phonics scheme. We will also be joined by

our assistant headteacher and Reading Lead, Miss Emma Smith, who will share the background to the Little Wandle reading scheme and we will then explain when the children will be bringing home phonically decodable reading books and how you can support your child at home. We also want to use this meeting as an opportunity for parents/carers to ask any questions following on from the children settling into school. We look forward to seeing many of you then.

Finally, please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

Many thanks for all your support.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Pickering, Mrs Forrest & Mr Bowen
The Reception Team