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15.1.2018

Dear Reception Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the start of the new school term. We hope that you have had a lovely holiday and wish you a Happy New Year. We are very much looking forward to the exciting time ahead for all of the children in Reception. We hope that the following information proves useful to you, but please feel free to come and discuss any other questions you may have.

Curriculum:

Topic – Winter and Eggs Alive.

English- Non fiction writing about arctic animals, writing simple sentences, lists and instructions and learning to segment and blend words together (sounding out)

Maths- Number, addition and subtraction (one more/one less), 3D shapes, measures including time and money.

Homework:

Children in Reception will be given a phonics and Maths based piece of homework related to work we have been doing during the week. Homework will be sent home on Friday in the children's homework books and is to be **completed and handed in by the following Thursday**.

Reading - Children are also expected to read for at least 5 to 10 minutes daily, as part of their homework. We suggest you encourage your child to read regularly and to bring the book to school every day, which needs to be left in their book bags. We change books on a Tuesday and a Friday.

Please ensure that you sign your child's Home School Journal at home each time they read, either to an adult or independently and kindly leave a note in the journal to state that the book has been read.

PE Kits:

The children have PE on **a Friday**. Please ensure that your child has a named PE kit which should consist of a plain white T-shirt, black shorts and pumps; they can bring plain black/navy jogging trousers and jumper if it is colder outside and trainers for outdoor lessons only. PE kits should be brought into school in a named, drawstring bag please. If for any reason your child is unable to take part in PE lessons we require a note of explanation. Please can you remind your children that earrings should be removed before PE lessons.

Uniform:

Miss Cooke has spoken to the children about taking great pride in their appearance and wearing the correct school uniform. Staff will be reminding children about the uniform expectations at school regularly. Please support us in ensuring that your child wears the correct uniform, thank you.

Recommended Clothing

- Royal blue sweatshirts/cardigan
- White polo shirt
- Grey trousers/skirt/pinafore dress
- Blue checked dress in summer if preferred
- Plain shoes (not trainers)
- Reversible waterproof fleece jacket.

Children with long hair should come to school with their hair tied back please.

Jewellery

For safety reasons children should not wear jewellery to school. We ask that children with pierced ears should only wear stud earrings.

Please can we remind you that nail varnish should not be worn at school, thank you.

Indoor/Outdoor Shoes:

At Howes we ask the children to wear a pair of outdoor shoes to and from school and whilst outside at playtime/lunchtime as this enables them to make the most of the school grounds during the wetter weather. Once they arrive at school we ask the children to change into indoor shoes. Please could we ask you to encourage your child to bring a pair of named indoor shoes to keep at school, such as slippers, school shoes or pumps. Thank you.

In the Early Years and KS1 many of the children keep a pair of wellington boots at school that they can wear outside whatever the weather. Please could we ask you to encourage your child to bring a pair of named wellies to keep at school, and in the colder weather to also provide a hat and gloves. Thank you.

Playtime Fruit and Snacks:

Fruit at playtime is provided for children in Early Years and Key Stage 1. Children may bring in a labelled **water** bottle each day, which can be kept in the classroom. Please can all children make sure that they take their water bottle home at the end of the day.

Please can we remind you that the children should only bring water in their water bottles, thank you.

Please can we remind you that children should not bring any nuts to school either as a snack or as part of a packed lunch thank you.

Behaviour Expectations

Howes is a friendly and caring community and we are keen for our children to take on these and other values. Our house point system is proving effective at encouraging children to follow our golden rules and values. We would still very much like parents and carers to help us in reinforcing these rules and values with the children.

Please can children be reminded that they should not bring toys into school, unless they have been given permission to do so.

Celebration Assemblies

Our 'Celebration Assembly' takes place on a Friday morning at 9am. This is an opportunity for teachers to nominate two children from each class per week, to receive an award for an aspect of outstanding work, achievement or behaviour. Parents will be invited to come into school for the assembly when their child is awarded their certificate. You will receive a letter on a Wednesday to inform you that your child has been nominated.

Absences and Medical Needs:

We would like to remind you that if your child is going to be absent please telephone the school office at the number above as soon as possible. Any medication that your child requires during the day should be given to the Office, for a First Aider, in the original container and a medical administration consent form needs to be completed. Inhalers must be labelled and be handed in to your child's class teacher to be stored safely in the classroom.

Timings of the day:

The start of a Howes school day in Receptions begins at 8:55am. It is very important that all pupils arrive promptly to enable them to settle and begin learning straight away.

The end of the school day for pupils is Key Stage 1 is at 3.15pm. Please note that this is 5 minutes earlier than Key Stage 2 pupils. Children become very distressed if parents are late in picking them up, especially if they are the only child left in the classroom. If unforeseen circumstances arise and you are going to be late or another person is picking up your child then please phone the office in advance so that we can inform and prepare your child for this.

To ensure the safety of all children the school gates are locked at 9am and again at 3:30pm.

Important Events for Reception:

15 th January	Clubs Start
12 th February	Parents' Evening
17 th February	End of Term
Week Beginning 19 th February	Half Term
26 th February	Back to School
30 th March	End of Term

We are looking forward to continuing to work with you and your children this term.

Yours sincerely

Miss Price, Mrs Devall and Mrs Wildsmith

