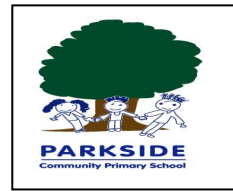


PARKSIDE COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL
SQUIRREL CLASS LETTER
TERMS 1 & 2
DATE: September 2026



Dear Parents/Carers, It has been a pleasure to meet you and your children over the past few weeks. They are beginning to settle in well to Squirrels Reception Class. My name is **Mrs Keegan**, I am the class teacher, and **Miss Boulton** is the teaching assistant. Going forward we hope to join forces with you to further support each of your children to fulfil their potential. Below is some information about what we will be doing in school, and some things that you can be supporting your child with at home too!

Term 1 topic is 'All About Me'

In the first few weeks we aim to really get to know your child and to get them settled in to school life. We will also be looking at **our School Values (See below GREAT and REACH)**.

Curriculum focus:

Little Wandle Phonics: Phase 2 sounds and sound discrimination, rhyming and letter formation. This means the children will learn the letter sounds that make simple words. We will be starting with **s,a,t,p,i,n** and words using these sounds. Encourage your child to tell you the sounds that they can hear in words when you are speaking or reading.

Maths: We will be practicing counting and identifying digits 1, 2, and 3. The children will get the chance to explore shapes and we will also be learning about time and money. Please encourage your children to count out loud with you. Ask them how many (within 5 or 10) items are in a shopping basket or as they tidy their toys etc. Talk to them about how much things cost and special times during the day i.e. breakfast time, school time, bed time and what the clock looks like.

Understanding the World: The children will be learning about **Seasonal Change** as we move from Summer in to Autumn then Winter. We also do PSED; Personal, Social, Emotional Education, also about **different communities**, our bodies and emotions.

Term 2 Topic is Celebrations!

As part of this topic, the children will learn about various festivals, traditions and special days celebrated in the UK and around the world. We will enjoy Halloween activities and have a dress up day. The children will be able to make crafts from diverse cultures and learn traditional Christmas songs. We also hope to put on a Nativity performance for parents to come and see.

Curriculum focus:

Little Wandle Phonics:

Phase 2/3 (letter formation, blending sounds for reading and segmenting sounds for spelling.) The children will be learning to read and write with more sounds and tricky words (those that cannot be easily decoded). Reading stories with them regularly and practising sounds at home will support your child's confidence and success!

Maths:

In term 2 we will focus on numbers 0, 4 and 5 and making number bonds (adding up to 3). We will go back over shape and patterns, time, money, and learn to double and share amounts!

Understanding the World:

We will continue to look at Seasonal Change as we move from Autumn in to Winter. As mentioned above we will look at different celebrations from around the world and focus on the big celebrations that are important to our families and communities.

PE will take place on **Tuesday** afternoons. Please ensure that your child comes into school dressed in their PE kit as we will not be changing in class. Please ensure that your child has **jewellery removed or covered (especially earrings)**.

Forest School will be on Wednesdays. Please send in wellies if you have them, and water proof clothing. Uniform should still be worn; long trousers/ leggings, long sleeves to protect from bug bites, branch scratches etc. The children may come home muddy. The forest is for **ADVENTURE!**

Squirrel Class are looking forward to achieving their first 100% Attendance Certificate for this academic term. To achieve this, we require **all children to be in school every day**.

It really is essential that children are regular attenders as low attendance has a huge impact on a child's learning. Please ensure that your child is in school for 8.40am to start promptly at 8.50am each day as late arrivals have an impact on your child and the rest of the class. Thank you.

So far **the children have looked immaculate in their uniforms** please keep it up. It creates a sense of PRIDE, belonging and equality amongst the children. A quick reminder that children need to **wear appropriate weather proof shoes, not trainers or crocs**. Your child needs to be able to or at least be working on taking them off and putting them on themselves. Laced shoes should only be worn if you have taught them to tie up their own shoes. **Please name everything your child brings to school in permanent pen or stickers to avoid them getting lost. Please check them regularly and name any new clothing.**

Golden Rules spell GREAT

Gentle hands and feet

Respect others and their property

Expect to work hard

Always listen

Talk kindly



Books, books, books!

Your child will bring home borrowed books from the book corner. **Please read these together with your child each night to help them build their enjoyment of stories, vocabulary and knowledge.** Young children need lots of exposure to books and stories to build their attention and enjoyment of reading. Use 'book talk' as much as possible. This means asking what they liked, noticed, felt etc, who were the characters? If you don't have physical books at home, e-books or digital books found online may also be suitable.

REACH for the Stars

Resilience

Effort

Aspiration

Courtesy

Honesty



PARKSIDE
Community Primary School



Children in Squirrel Class are given fruit at snack time so there is no need to send in additional snacks unless they have a specific dietary requirement that the school is aware of.

Packed lunches should be healthy; including a sandwich, low sugar drink, yogurt and at least two pieces of fruit. **No nuts!**

Biscuits and chocolate are sugary treats, which are best enjoyed at home as they can impact on a child's behaviour.

REMINDERS: If you have arranged for another person to collect your child from school then please remember to let us know. We will **NOT** release any child to an unfamiliar adult unless we have your permission to do so!

Water bottles can be sent in to school but they must only contain WATER and be taken home each evening to be thoroughly washed and returned the next day.

Your child has been given a school water bottle which will be kept in class and refilled daily.