



PARKSIDE COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL
SQUIRREL CLASS LETTER
TERMS 1 & 2



DATE: 15/9/23

Dear Parents/Carers, it has been a pleasure to meet you and your children over the past week. They have settled in well so far in to Squirrels Reception Class. My name is **Miss Aitken**, I am the class teacher and **Miss Morris** 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, dates you might want to put in your diary/phone and some things that you can be supporting your child with at home too! The most important thing is to be at school every day possible!

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). To encourage the children to speak and listen they will have a chance to bring in their favourite toys to 'Show and Tell.'**

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 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 etc and what the clock looks like.

Science: The children will be learning about **Seasonal Change** as we move from summer in to autumn and the body, including bones.

Term 2 Topic is 'Winter Celebrations'.

There will be a Harvest assembly which you are invited to on 12th October (TBC) and the children will do Autumnal crafts and learning about the changing seasons. We will be working on a Nativity play in the lead up to **Christmas** and a whole host of magic and tradition. So watch this space. Jingle Jingle! We are blessed at Parkside with a fantastic forest area (See below for details). **Mrs Meynell** will lead out learning in the forest about trees, woodland wildlife, den building and stories that celebrate creatures great and small. We might even have hot chocolate and marshmallows from time to time.

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 (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!

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

Forest School will be on Fridays. Please send in wellies if you have them, and a water proof jacket. They may come home muddy.



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. We take PRIDE in our school and uniform so please keep it up! It creates a sense of belonging and equality amongst the children. The school logo on jumpers is a reminder to children that they are all part of the Parkside Community so please also remember to dress them in uniform P.E. kit. Also, a quick reminder that children need to wear appropriate weather proof shoes, not pumps or trainers and **please name everything your child brings to school in permanent pen to avoid them getting lost**.

Golden Rules spell GREAT

Gentle hands and feet.

Really listen carefully without interrupting.

Expect to work hard.

Always tell the truth and be a good friend.

Treat resources with respect and tidy away.

Dates for your diary:

September

Children stay full time from Thursday 14th (8:40-3pm)
Family Fun with Phonics Date TBC

October

Harvest Festival Assembly Friday 6th Time TBC
Parents Evening Wednesday 18th (Times TBC)

Books, books, books!

Soon 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 are also suitable. A date will be confirmed for an afternoon of **Family Fun with Phonics. You will be able to visit the classroom, play games and learn about the Little Wandle Phonics programme that we teach.**

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 a child to an adult unless we have your permission to do so!

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