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Executive Headteacher – Mrs P Atwal

Friday, 20th September 2024

WHAT A GORGEOUS FIRST FULL WEEK!

OH MY! I really do believe I have the best job in the world; I feel very blessed to be working with your children and they have all made me so very proud!

What a beautiful week Miss Evans, Mrs Gregory, Mrs Walters and I have had as we have welcomed your children full time into Richardson Endowed Primary School – we have been extremely impressed with how well your children have come into school so independently and have been so willing to explore and get used to a whole new environment and brand-new routines. Your children have been super with meeting one another and lovely new friendships are starting to develop as well as strengthening existing ones. Mrs Atwal has also asked me to say thank you for preparing your children so well. She has loved meeting the children throughout the week.

THIS HALF TERM

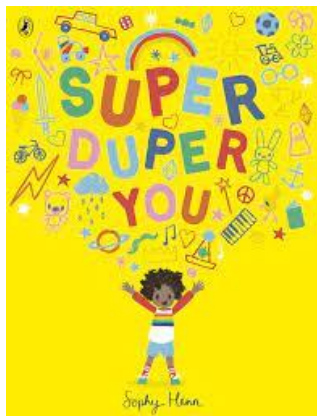
We're Going on a Bear Hunt

Michael Rosen Helen Oxenbury

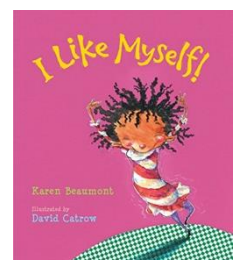


Our first two weeks at school have focussed on the theme of teddy bears and real-life bears! The children have loved joining in with the repeating story of 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt'. We have been learning that an author writes a book, and that Michael Rosen is the author of this book. We have looked at different versions of the story too and decided which one we like the best – the pop-up version was very popular! The children adored their very own 'Welly Walk adventure" on Wednesday, especially when we visited each classroom in lower school and then climbed aboard the train!

During the rest of this first half-term, our topic is called 'Marvellous Me!' – this forms part of our whole school theme of Identity and Diversity. As your child continues to settle, we will explore more



about ourselves, our friends, our feelings, our families, our hobbies, our pets and favourite animals and much more. Through a mixture of play, whole class, small group and individual focus groups, we will be planning and providing lots of active learning activities for the children to participate in that will help each child to continue to make progress towards the Early Learning Goals. Our learning will be inspired by some beautiful books, which we will share with you through our school website. We will plan and work within the seven areas of learning in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). I will share your child's learning through the school website and through Google



Classroom (logon details to be sent home in our book bags), as well as have discussions with you at the end of the day and at parents' meetings.

Smalley Teddies

A HUGE thank you for the beautiful personalisation of the class teddies - they are adorable and the children love them! They have been super at giving hugs when needed and supporting the children through the day. There will be little projects throughout the year that will involve our Smalley teddies. From 23rd September, I would like to start a family display and would love teddy to take a photograph of your family to bring to school please. Please ask teddy to pop it in a named envelope. On a Wednesday afternoon, we will always have a circle time so the teddies need to be in school that day so that they can join in please - I know some teddies have been having a cheeky lie-in at home this week as they have had a busy first week at school! If teddy goes on any adventures over the weekends and holidays, please email us a photo to the school office (hopefully we will be able to do this through Google Classroom soon). Thank you in advance. We share 'Teddy Tales' every Friday afternoon.



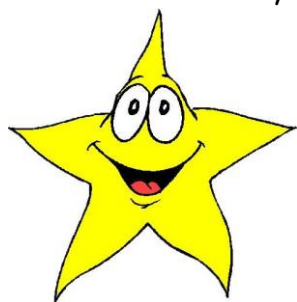
Wellies and puddle suits



Thank you so much for supporting our Welly Wednesday initiative with the most amazing collection of wellies and puddle suits - we can't wait for it to start raining!

Working together - WOW stars

Working together and supporting your child together is very important to us here at Richardson. In the initial starters' booklet, I mentioned 'WOW stars' and this a way that you can help to support the observational assessments that we do in school. WOW Stars are a way of sharing your observations when your child does something amazing that they have never done before, for example



writing their name for the first time, counting backwards from 10 to 0, learning to ride a bike with no stabilisers, fastening their coat/getting dressed independently, etc. Instead of a separate star piece of paper, I thought you could use the reading diary to record these magical milestones with us. We will then use this evidence when planning and assessing your child's learning journey. I have popped a selection of star stickers inside your child's reading diary for you to use. Many thanks in advance for your contributions to this.

Reading



We have sent out your child's first wordless reading book this week - please follow the guidance in the front and back of the book to assist your child when sharing the book. Please keep this book and your child's reading diary in their book bag every day. Starting from next week, the children will start to put their reading record in the white box each morning. This allows Miss Evans/Mrs Walters and I to read any messages from home, and praise and encourage the children for reading three times a week at home. We will change these every Thursday. Alongside your child's reading book, your child will choose a library book - our 'library day' is Friday, so please make sure your child brings their library book back in on this day please (children do have the opportunity to change these during the week if they would like to). Your child will also receive a rhyme of the week

to learn and share at home each week. Thank you for sharing the bedtime stories and reading activities you have been doing together - the children have been proud to share these with one another too.

This week, we started our Little Wandle Phase 2 Letters and Sounds, learning the phonemes s/a/t/p. We have popped a sound mat into your child's reading diary: these can be used to practise and reinforce phonemes (units of sound) at home. Please keep these in your child's diary, as we will practise them at school too. We ran our first phonics workshop for parents last Monday and there are two more opportunities to come to this (please refer to the letter I sent out on Wednesday).



Class R have a reading celebration display in their classroom to motivate and recognise super regular reading. We ask for grown-ups to listen to their child read their school book at least 3 times a week please (5-10 minutes is perfect), as regular practise really helps children to progress. Please write a comment in your child's diary and then Mrs Evans and I will count up the number of reads each week. Your child will move up the celebration display each time they read. Your child will be awarded a certificate for every 10 reads and a choice from a treat box for every 25 reads they achieve. When they reach 100 reads at the top of the chart, they will receive a special award. We are looking forward to using the reading challenge to promote reading for enjoyment and watching the children's reading skills grow!

Our website

We love to share learning on our school website, so please take a look. Our school office posts our school letters and important information on here too, at: www.richardsonendowed.co.uk

PE

PE lessons will take place on a Tuesday and Thursday morning. The children have looked super smart in their P.E. this week - thank you so much for your support with this. We have had much fun in the hall. If your child has earrings, please make sure these are taken out at home. Our policy is to remove earrings, not to allow them to be covered with tape.

Snack time



Each week we have a different fruit and vegetable rota for snack time. Our usual fruits and vegetables include carrots, apples, bananas, pears, satsumas and tomatoes, which are provided by a government scheme. If your child would like to bring their own snack, we do ask that they only bring fresh or dried fruits or vegetables in a named pot please. Please slice grapes in half.

Cool Milk

In Class R your child will receive a carton of milk. This is free until children turn 5 years old. If your child would still like to receive a carton of milk each day after that, then please visit <https://www.coolmilk.com/> to pay for the milk online. Please make sure you do this at least 2 weeks before your child's 5th birthday.

Water bottles



Children are encouraged throughout the day to drink from their water bottle and keep hydrated. We encourage our children to stay as healthy and hydrated as possible during their learning time. Just a reminder that we ask for **water only** in the bottles and not juice please - this helps to promote dental hygiene. Thank you for your support with this. Please encourage your child to carry their water bottle in their hand rather than carry it in their reading diary, as this will prevent our lovely reading books and reading diaries getting wet and damaged.

Communication

As well as writing a message in your child's reading diary, you can contact the school office should you wish to leave me a message or speak to me after school. The contact details are on our school website. The office staff are working hard to embed the new office system so your school app and parent pay app should be fully accessible soon - thank you for your understanding and patience with this.

Staffing in Class R

I will be working with your child each day at school. In our Reception class, I have a team of wonderful people - Mrs Gregory, who is our wonderful Higher Level Teaching Assistant, who has a wealth of Early Years expertise; she will teach in Class R on a Wednesday and Thursday afternoon due to my school management responsibilities. Mrs Walters, our teaching assistant, works with your children on a Monday and Tuesday and Miss Evans, our teaching assistant, works with your children Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

We hope that your child will continue to feel happy to come into Class R. It is always lovely to see you all at either end of the day. We look forward to working with you over the coming year as your child fully embraces their learning journey in EYFS.

From **next Monday**, we would love you to help your child become that little more independent by saying goodbye at the classroom door and then your child entering to pop away their things independently, before going to explore one of our learning areas. My team and I will be there to support this transition.

Thank you so much.

Mrs Reckless (Class teacher) Mrs Walters & Miss Evans (EYFS teaching assistants) and Mrs Gregory (HLTA).

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