

Main Road, Smalley Derbyshire DE7 6EF
01332 880317

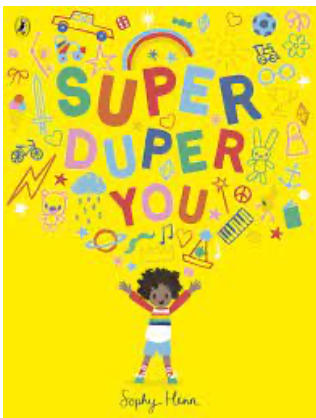
Headteacher – Mr M Fearn

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!

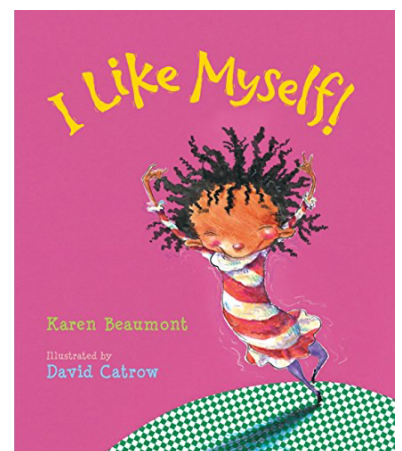
What a beautiful week Mrs Hull, Mrs Gregory, Mrs Needham and I have had as we have welcomed your children into full time at Richardson Endowed Primary School - we have been extremely impressed with how well your children have come into school so independently and have been so willing to explore and get 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. Mr Fearn has also asked me to say thank you for preparing your children so well. He has loved meeting the children throughout the week.

THIS HALF TERM



Your children have already shown and shared a lot about themselves this week and it has been wonderful to start to get to know their different personalities and learn about some of the areas that interest them. This week we have focused on getting to know one another and our cute teddies and enjoyed sharing books that have addressed some of our questions and ideas. We've looked at the letters in our names, found out when our birthdays are and shared things that we enjoy and do not like! The children adored their very own 'Welly

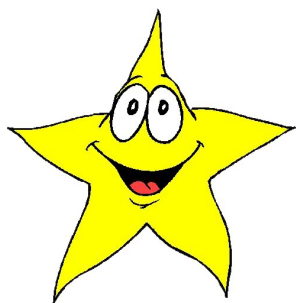
Walk adventure" on Wednesday, especially when we climbed aboard the train!



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 (login details to be sent home shortly), 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 25th 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.



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 actually 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. On Monday, in your child's reading diary, I will pop in an envelope - I will put a selection of star stickers in there. 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. Many thanks in advance for your contributions to this.

Reading



We will begin to send reading books out next week. Please continue to return your child's reading diary to school every day. The children have been practising how to put their reading record in the white box each morning, which they will do daily. This allows Mrs Hull and I to read any messages from home, as well as to change reading books. 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.

In the coming weeks, we will begin Phase 2 Letters and Sounds, which is our daily 20 minute phonics programme. Please look out for the sound mats that we will place in 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 will be running a phonics workshop for parents this term, which will share some of the ideas and resources that we use to teach your child phonics and how to read - please look out for the date.



Class R, 1 and 2 all 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 practice really helps children to progress. Please write a comment in your child's diary and then Mrs Hull 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.

Staffing in Class R

Mrs Hull and I will be working with your child each day at school. Mrs Needham, a teaching assistant, will also be supporting our class at times through the week. You will also see and hear about 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 Tuesday and Wednesday afternoon due to my school management responsibilities.

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.

Thank you so much.

Mrs Reckless (Class teacher) Mrs Hull (EYFS teaching assistant), Mrs Gregory (HLTA) and Mrs Needham (Teaching Assistant)

