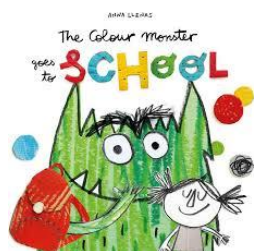


Main Road, Smalley Derbyshire DE7 6EF
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Executive Headteacher – Mrs P Atwal

I would like to extend a very warm welcome to all of our new and returning families. I hope you have all had a wonderful summer and are looking forward to an exciting year ahead.

Starting school is a very special milestone, and we are looking forward to getting to know each child and helping them settle into their new classroom. During the first few weeks, our main focus will be building positive relationships, establishing routines and helping the children feel safe, confident and excited to learn. We will spend lots of time exploring the classroom, making new friends and introducing the children to the wonderful opportunities available in Reception.



In Reception class this term, our topic is 'Marvelous Me' based on the whole school global theme: **Identity and Diversity**. Using key stories such as 'The Colour Monster goes to School' and 'All the ways to be smart', we will explore all about ourselves, friends, families, feelings, hobbies and much more. Through a mixture of adventure time, whole class, small group and individual focus groups, we will be providing lots of active learning activities for your child to participate in and make progress towards the Early Learning

Goals.



In **phonics** next week, the children will start their daily Little Wandle sessions learning to recognise the phonemes (unit of sound) 's,a,t,p'. We have put a sound mat in your child's reading diary: these can be used to practise and reinforce the phonemes at home. As the term progresses, we will have our first phonics workshop which would be lovely to see as many of you there as possible!

Each week, your child will read with an adult 3 times per week. To begin your child's reading journey, they have been sent home with a wordless book– please follow the guidance in the front and back of the book to assist your child when sharing the book. Please keep your child's reading diary and book in their bag every day and we will change their book **every Thursday**. Alongside your child's reading book, your child will choose a library book each week as well. Our 'library day' is also on a Thursday, so please make sure your child brings their library book back on this day so it can be changed.

To support your child, we ask for grown-ups to listen to their child read at least **3 times per week** (5-10 minutes is perfect). Regular practise really helps the children to progress. Please write a short comment in your child's diary so we know you have read with them.

During **communication and language**, the children will be listening to a range of stories, asking questions, engaging in conversation with adults and peers and talking about things in the past.

In **PSHE**, the children will be exploring relationships, building friendships, managing feelings and learning to share with others.

In **Physical Education**, the children will be exploring a range of balancing activities, practising their throwing, catching and kicking skills, jumping and hopping and running and skipping. Please ensure that your child wears their PE uniform to school and keeps it on all day on their PE days which are a **Tuesday** and **Thursday**. Children can wear shorts, jogging bottoms or leggings with a school-coloured t-shirt and hoodie or school jumper if cold. **Please remove earrings and tie back long hair**. Thank you.

In **English**, the children will be practising writing their own name, mark making with patterns and using our weekly story book to hear the initial and end sounds of words to draw pictures and write labels.

In **maths**, the children will begin to subitise within 3, focus on their counting skills and explore the composition of 3 and 4. We will follow the Mastering Number scheme.

In **Understanding the World**, the children will explore which stories are special and explore why they are special. They will discuss what things are marvellous about themselves and who is in their family.

In **Expressive Arts and Design**, the children will be drawing self-portraits, completing potato printing and creating collages of bark / acorn rubbings.

During **snack time** each week, we have a different fruit or vegetable rota. Our usual fruits and vegetables include carrots, apples, bananas, pears, satsumas and tomatoes, which are provided by a government scheme so there is no need to bring one from home. However, you may wish to send your child with an alternative healthy snack for them to eat during snack time.

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.

Children are encouraged throughout the day to drink from their water bottle and keep hydrated. We encourage the 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 diaries getting wet and damaged.

Please **remember to label** all items of clothing and any other belongings to support us from items getting lost. Thank you.

We are looking forward to working closely with you throughout the year and sharing your child's learning and achievements. Please do not hesitate to get in contact with myself if you have any questions. I am able at the end of the day, or you can contact the office to arrange an appointment.

Kind regards,

Miss Abbott, Mrs Needham and Mrs Gregory

National Support School
designated by



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