



“Mighty oaks from tiny acorns grow”



November 2021

Dear Parents,

Welcome to a new half term. We have certainly hit the floor running this year; all the children have settled into the new routines of school really well and it feels like we have been together as a class forever.

Phonics

It was great to see so many Hellifield faces at our introduction to phonics session and hopefully it explained a little about how the teaching of reading has developed. Please do access the Little Wandle website for ideas to support your child at home.

<https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents/> We also regularly visit the site to ensure we are following the scheme with fidelity so our children have the best opportunity to succeed in learning to read. Remember to look out for stickers with sounds on that your child has been asked to practise at home!

Reading Books

Both Reception and Year One are working hard in their phonics sessions and are enjoying reading the new phonics scheme books. Please look after these beautiful new books at home by:

- Keeping them in the plastic wallets when they have been read
- Not eating at the same time as reading
- Not putting water bottles in book bags when travelling to and from school.

This will ensure we have lovely high-quality books for many years to come.

Water and milk

It is great to see all children with a water bottle in school and drinking regularly from it alongside their milk and snack in the morning. Don't forget, if your child is over five, they can still have milk at the cost of £1 a week payable through School Money. All children are eating their lunches and are willing to try new things which is great to see.

PE Kits

PE kit at the moment is school shirt and jumper on top with shorts/joggers/leggings on the bottom with suitable footwear (Velcro trainers that don't have a thick sole) so they have more balance and control over their movements. This needs to be worn on Mondays and Wednesdays. Full school uniform to be worn on the other days. Please check that names are still visible in all uniform, including shoes, as we wear wellies more often now to work outside. Please continue to encourage children to fasten their own coats.

Curriculum

Our topic for this half term continues with the theme 'Journey into your imagination' and includes Firework Poetry in English, Addition and Subtraction in Maths, Seasonal Changes in



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Science, Incarnation and Advent in Re and Where do I live? In Geography. We will also enjoy the build-up to Christmas and other seasonal excitement!

Plea for resources

For our ongoing creative area please could you save small boxes, cardboard tubes, plastic bottle lids, egg boxes etc (if you collect a bag full we can then put them in quarantine before use). Also, if you have any washing up brushes, scrubbing brushes, floor brushes, basically brushes of any kind that are looking a bit tired but still have life left in them please may we have them for our forest room.

Thank you for your continued support!

Mrs Jones, Mrs Devereux, Mrs Smith

(Acorn Staff Team)