**Year R Newsletter - Issue 1**

**Welcome**

We would like to say a huge well done to all our children for settling so well into their new school. They have already picked up school routines and settled into school life very quickly. We really enjoy seeing such happy children accessing our learning environment and enjoying each other’s company.

**Baseline Assessment**

During the first two weeks we have been completing an initial assessment on your child. All of our assessments are completed through observation and interaction of play activities so the children won’t even be aware it has happened.

**Topic**

Next week we will start our topic ‘Dinosaurs’. We will be using the book ‘Cave Baby’ and ‘harry and his bucketful of Dinosaurs’. Please feel free to visit the library to get copies of these books and read them with your child as much as possible. We will also be learning about our names and other people’s names. We will be learning about numbers and how much each number represents.

**PE**

It is good to see the children all with their PE kit. We are currently doing indoor PE, so please make sure your child has appropriate PE kit (shorts and t-shirt). Please remember to remove all earrings on the day your child has PE.

Class 1 – Tuesday Class 2 – Wednesday Class 3 - Thursday

Please bear with us if things go missing. Changing 30 children can be quite an event. Please rest assured that any named items will be reunited with their owner as soon as we can find it.

**Reading**

During these first couple of weeks we have been reading with all of the children to determine how best to support them to further develop their early reading skills. We will be sending a small folder home that will contain a reading book, a home/school reading diary and a set of key words for your child to learn. Please ensure that this folder and its contents come to school every day. If you read with your child, please make a note of it in their home/school reading diary. Please record anything you read even if it isn’t a school reading book. It really helps us to know how much they read at home so we can support them accordingly. If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to ask us. The children will quickly learn key words as they read and progress in their Phonics learning but we currently encourage them to talk about what is happening on each page and make predictions. Within your child’s reading diary, there are some helpful notes to show you how you can best support your child at home.

**Wet Weather Clothes**

The children can access the outdoor learning environment at any stage in the day. We still encourage this on rainy days so it is helpful if your child has a set of **labelled** wet weather clothes (wellie boots, rain mac or puddlesuit) that they can keep on their peg for these occasions.

Thank you again for your continued support in these initial weeks of your child’s school experience. Please do not hesitate to speak to an adult within your child’s class if you have any questions.

**Lacey Library**

Each Friday afternoon (weather permitting) a Year R class will be visiting the Lacey Library. If you are able to volunteer to walk the children to and from the Library with us, then please let your child’s class teacher know. The next visits are shown below:

Class 1 – Friday 21st September

Class 2 – Friday 28th September

Class 3 – Friday 5th October