

7th September 2022

Dear Parents

It has been fantastic how well everyone has settled into our new Caterpillar Class. Reception and Preschool children have been working brilliantly together. We have been so impressed with how confidently they have undertaken new tasks. There will also be various times where Reception and Pre-school will be separate due to the demands of the school curriculum. We are calling the Early Years base Caterpillar Class when they are together and because they are located in 'The Pod', but also regularly using the names Reception and Pre-school to naturally distinguish between the groups.

Following this letter, Reception parents will receive a 'Knowledge Web' which will cover the key themes taught this term. This resource would be perfectly fit on a fridge and can be referred to often if you would like to know what is being covered in school.

Pre-school children will continually receive other information via Tapestry and email.

Here are a few things we would like to share with you about how we will be running our classroom this year.

PE times - all children - Friday afternoon (Mr Brisco)

Reception: Please send your child to school wearing their PE kit on Friday mornings, Children will stay in PE kit on a Friday and return home with it on.

Preschool: PE can be completed in Preschool clothing.

Forest School - all children - Thursdays morning (Mrs Stiles)

All: Forest School is on Thursday mornings. Please make sure your child comes to school wearing their forest school gear - clothes that you don't mind getting muddy (except waterproof layer and wellies - see below). Please make sure that the children also have some extra spare clothing in case they get wet.

All: We would like the children to have a fully waterproof layer and wellies which are kept in class all week so we can get outside whatever the weather. These will be available to the children on a Thursday morning for Forest School.



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Headteacher:
Mr C Perry

Spare clothes

We do have spare school uniform and underwear in school but some children feel uncomfortable about this and prefer to wear their own. If your child is still prone to the occasional toileting accident, it sometimes helps to keep a spare pair of underwear in their book bag. It is still quite normal to still have the odd accident here and there as they get very wrapped up in their play sometimes so it can be useful to pack a spare pair of underwear and spare clothes in their bags. Often we need to change socks if they get wet during play.

Home Reading

All the reception children will have a library, reading and record book in their book bags and Preschool will have library books. It is a fantastic habit to get into reading regularly at home as it makes a huge difference to your child's confidence and progress in reading. Ideally, the recommendation is to try and read their books little and often. We can not stress enough how much we appreciate your support as it has a positive effect on your child's progress when they have regular home support.

Reception children will have either very simple reading books (possibly without words) or picture books. We would like you to encourage your child to 'read' the book by telling the story by looking at the pictures, encouraging your child to talk in as full sentences as possible and really discuss what is happening in the pictures. This can also be done using library books. You might need to demonstrate to your child how to do this the first time. Once they have learned some phonic sounds they will move on to books with very simple words that they can sound out to read.

Homework

Reading practice (YR) library books (All) Occasionally, we will set project tasks that link to our topic.

Butter and Rainbow Bears

We have two class bears and two children will be chosen to take the bears home for a weekend adventure. Please do not feel under any pressure to do something extra just because you have the bear to stay. Please can you then upload any photos onto Tapestry so your child can share the experience with their friends.

Tapestry

We all enjoy seeing what you have been experiencing, learning and achieving at home. Please feel free to share these experiences on Tapestry.



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Thank you for your support if you have any questions, please feel free to either catch us at the end of school at the gate, email us at

For whole class, including Reception - caterpillarclass@cheselbourne.dorset.sch.uk

For Pre-school only - caterpillarpreschool@cheselbourne.dorset.sch.uk

We are looking forward to a fantastic fun filled year of learning.

Kind regards

Mrs Hockham (Mon-Thurs) Miss McIntyre (Mon- Fri Mornings) Miss Bagwell (Mon- Fri Mornings) Miss Robinson (Mon- Fri Afternoon) Mr Perry (Fri Afternoon)

Caterpillar Class

