



# Welcome to Pine!



Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September, 2019

We hope your child had a fantastic time on their 'taster' days and are thoroughly enjoying Pine. We are taking great pleasure in getting to know all the children and we are so pleased with how well they are all settling in.

We would like to say a big well done to all those children who are coming into school by themselves and we really appreciate your support with this. It has helped the children to become really independent and this does help to boost their confidence.

We hope that the information below is helpful as your child settles into Pine.

## **Staff**

Acorns: Mrs Mercer

Conkers: Mrs Coombes

Shared teaching assistants- Mrs Ware, Mrs Prior, Ms Davanna, Mrs Finn, Mrs Casey

## **Book Bags**

If your child doesn't have a book bag yet, please could you purchase one from the school office. The children place their book bag in a box in the morning and any letters are put into the book bags by an adult. If your child doesn't have a book bag, s/he may miss out on important letters. Your child is welcome to bring a rucksack to school **in addition** to their book bag.

## **Change to the morning routine**

From week beginning 30<sup>th</sup> September, we are trialling a new system for changing reading books which go home. Baskets of reading books will be placed on tables under the Pine canopy every morning so that parents can change reading books **with** their child. Two letters regarding this are going out today (Friday 20<sup>th</sup>).

Due to this change in routine, we would now like parents to come through the green Pine gate every morning with their child, starting from this Monday (23<sup>rd</sup>). You can then stand under the canopy and change reading books (once this system starts on Monday 30<sup>th</sup>) and place communication books/letters/money in the labelled box (see box below). You can then say goodbye to your child at the door leading to the indoor classroom so that children can still continue to come into the classroom independently. Please could we ask that you vacate the Pine outdoor area by 8.55am so that the green gate can be locked for safety purposes.

If your child is brought to school by somebody other than yourselves, we would be very grateful if you could share this routine with them.

### **Communication Book**

In your child's book bag, there is a 'communication' book. Please can **all** messages (alternative pick up arrangements, medical appointments etc) be written in this book. This will then allow Pine staff to focus on the children coming into school in the mornings rather than also trying to take messages. On the inside cover, there are some other suggestions as to how this book can be used. As you can appreciate, with all the children in Pine, we do not have time to check every child's book bag on a daily basis so we would be really grateful if any letters/money/communication books can be placed in the labelled box on the table under the canopy in the morning. You only need to place your child's purple communication book in the box if there is a message in it, otherwise, please keep it in the book bag (as we may occasionally need to write a message in it for you.)

A member of staff is available to answer any quick questions in the morning but if you require a longer conversation, please speak to the class teacher at home time or email them:-

Acorns- Mrs Mercer-[kerry.mercer@firslower.org](mailto:kerry.mercer@firslower.org)

Conkers- Mrs Coombes- [shaline.coombes@firslower.org](mailto:shaline.coombes@firslower.org)

### **Read, Write, Inc**

We will be starting to teach Read, Write, Inc (RWI) from Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> September, which is the programme we use to teach reading and writing. We teach a sound a day and when the children have been taught a new sound, they will bring an associated 'sound sheet' home the same day, which will help to reinforce what they have been taught. These 'sound sheets' are to be kept in a folder. Look out for the folder containing the first sound sheet in your child's book bag this Monday. The folder is to be kept **at home** so that you can help your child consolidate their knowledge of the letter sounds.

Each child will also be bringing home 'My Set 1 Speed Sounds Book' (from wb 30/9/19 as they are being reprinted at the publishers). More detailed information about this will be sent home with the book.

Reading books will be available from week beginning 30<sup>th</sup> September and for most children, this will be a picture book.

### **PE lessons**

PE lessons will start week beginning 30<sup>th</sup> September so please could you ensure your child's PE kit is in school (your child does not need plimsolls until the spring term). PE days are as follows:-

**Acorns-Monday**

**Conkers- Thursday**

### **Uniform**

Thank you to all those parents who have brought in their child's waterproofs and welly boots which have been put to good use in the digging area this week! Please could you bring these in as soon as possible if you haven't done so already. Thank you.

Please could you ensure all your child's school clothing (including shoes) are labelled so that lost items can be returned.

We hope that this letter has answered some of your questions, but if not, please do not hesitate to come and speak to a member of the Pine team. We have had a wonderful time getting to know all the new Pine children and we're looking forward to working with you in partnership to make sure they all have a fantastic year with us.

Thank you for your support

## The Pine Team