



# Welcome to Pine!



Friday 18<sup>th</sup> September, 2020

We hope your child had a fantastic time on their ‘taster’ days and we are thoroughly enjoying getting to know them. Despite transition being very different this year, the children have adapted to their new setting really well and we have been impressed with how quickly they have settled.

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

## **Staff**

Acorns: Mrs Prior (Mon-Wed am) and Mrs Mercer (Wed pm-Frid)

Conkers: Mrs Brady (Mon) and Mrs Coombes (Tues-Frid)

Shared teaching assistants- Mrs Ware, Ms Davanna, Mrs Finn, Mrs Casey/ Mrs Higgs, Miss Pearce

## **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.

## **Reading Books**

We will be asking Pine parents/carers to begin to select/change their child's books from Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> September. Reading books will be available to select in boxes for each colour on **either Mondays or Thursdays** from the gazebo at drop off and pick up times. The books will be kept for a week and we are asking parents to take **no more than two books** as otherwise, this will place more of a strain on our resources. The used books will be placed in the **Returned Books Box** for 72 hours as a Covid 19 precaution, before being made available for use again.

On Monday 28<sup>th</sup> September, we will send home a copy of the Reading Record sheet. This will guide you in what books/colour to select.

Signage in the gazebo will direct you to use hand gel to sanitise your hands before selecting the new books. If your child attends Kids' Club on both Mondays and Thursdays, please email the class teacher who will then change the books for you on one of these days.

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 given to the adult at the Pine gate. You only need to hand in your child's purple communication book 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. If you require a longer conversation, please don't hesitate to ring the class teacher after school or send them an email:-

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

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

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

We will be starting to teach Read, Write, Inc (RWI) from Thursday 24<sup>th</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 next Thursday (24<sup>th</sup>). The folder is to be kept **at home** so that you can help your child consolidate their knowledge of the letter sounds. On the same day, each child will also be bringing home 'My Set 1 Speed Sounds Book'. More detailed information about this will be sent home with the book.

### **PE lessons**

Sorry for any inconvenience but due to new restrictions in the hall, there is now less space so we will be taking the children **outside** for PE. PE will start week beginning 28<sup>th</sup> September. **We would like the children to come dressed to school in their PE Kit** (we will be sending home any PE kits which are already in school). As the weather gets colder, the children will need to wear black tracksuit bottoms and a green jumper (which can be their school jumper). PE days are as follows:-

**Acorns- Monday (1<sup>st</sup> session)**

**Conkers- Monday (2<sup>nd</sup> session)**

Each class will be split into two groups- Group A and Group B and will have PE on alternate weeks. We will let you know, via Tapestry, which group your child is in and the dates they will be doing PE.



### Reminders

- Please could you check that all your child's items of school clothing are labelled, **including their shoes**, as we have come across some items which do not have a name in. Thank you.
- All children need to bring their water bottle into school with them **every day**.
- Could we kindly ask that parents arrive at school at the assigned time for their child's class (Acorns- 8:45-8:55am, Conkers- 9:00-9:10am). In order to keep everyone safe, **please avoid arriving any earlier** as this will add to the congestion at the gate. We really appreciate your support with this.

We hope that this letter has answered some of your questions, but if not, please do not hesitate to email your child's class teacher with any queries. 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