

Godstowe

Beginners' Parents' Introductory Evening

September 2008

Dear Parents

We are aware that we gave out lots of information in a very short time at the introductory meeting on Friday so we have summarised below the main points. We hope this will also be useful to the parents who could not attend the meeting.

Curriculum

- The **Jolly Phonics** scheme will be used to learn the letter sounds and blends. A book will be sent home detailing the actions that go with each of the weekly sounds. This will enable you to support your child in phonics work at home. The children enjoy bringing in items beginning with the initial letter sounds; please check the whiteboard in the cloakroom for the week's sounds.
- **Home readers** are sent home daily. These are for you to share and enjoy with the children. Please initial in the green book when you have shared the book. The children are not expected to be able to read these books yet. The green book is also for comments you may like to make about your child's reading and can also be used as a two-way message book. Please could you check this book each evening.
- **The Oxford Reading Tree** scheme is used in school. Keywords will be sent home at each level to support the scheme.
- **Keywords** will be sent home fortnightly. These will form a set of 45 high frequency words that we hope the children will be able to read and spell by the end of the year. Week 1 – two sets of words are sent home to play matching games with. Week 2 – a green book is sent home for the children to copy the words.
- **Mathematics** will be taught using lots of hands-on practical activities.
- **PE** is on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday for Bgs K and Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday for Bgs S. Please bring in all kit on a Monday, it is sent home every Friday. Ensure that everything is named including socks, shoes, trainers and plimsolls. We would like the children to come in dressed in their games kit on Wednesday mornings and bring their school uniform and shoes in their PE bags. PE bags will be sent home on Tuesday evenings.
- Other subjects will be taught through topics. This half term's topic is '**All About Me**'. Next half term's topic is '**Celebrations and Light**'.

Other Information

- The white board in the Beginners cloakroom is a message board used by teachers to inform parents of any information. Also on the board is a weekly timetable for each class detailing the week's activities.
- Parents should have received a school calendar detailing the main events this term.
- Parents are invited to Lodge to help celebrate their child's birthday in 'Birthday Prayers' held on the Friday following their child's birthday between 8.45-9.15am. A note inviting parents will be written in the green reading/message books.
- Please could you fill in the questionnaire sent home in order to help us settle your child more quickly.

- There is a red book hanging from the classroom door that is used for parents to sign if you require after school care, or if someone other than yourself is picking your child up.
- The children will be rewarded in class by stickers/stars. There is also a weekly assembly when some children will be chosen to receive an 'achievement certificate'. Children may be awarded a 'Perriss Knight' star – a special award given for non-academic achievement. Perriss Knight certificates are awarded at the end of each term.

Our aim is to produce a safe, happy and stimulating environment for your child. Should you have any questions about anything please do not hesitate to talk to a member of staff.

Yours sincerely

Sandy King
Coralee Standish
Beginners Form teachers