

Cranberry Avenue
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Friday 3rd September 2021

Newsletter 1

Dear Parent/ Carer,

Welcome Back! Wow! What an amazing start to term. The children have settled back into school life brilliantly and have shown true friendship to one another and new children starting in our school. They have spent time getting to know their new teacher, new routines within their classrooms and have already been busy investigating, questioning and being curious about their learning. A huge well done to our nursery and reception children who have started school this week. They have loved exploring the learning environment both inside and out, making new friends and joining in with singing and story times! I know Mrs Buckley, Miss Tynan and the team are looking forward to welcoming more children next week and look forward to seeing you all.

Curriculum - News

This term we will be exploring and using our enquiry skills to discover: **Where will our future take us?** Staff from Nursery to Year 3 have been busy designing their year group curriculum focusing on this big question and the focus area of Computing. Please see your child's topic overview and class page on the website to find out more- these will be accessible from next week. We will also celebrate the children's learning in our 'Learning Showcase' for parents at the end of term on **Thursday 21st October at 2pm** (this is also World Values Day so get ready for a treat!).

Values and One Planet Principles - News

Our first value of the school year is '**Respect**'. This is a value that underpins all of our dealings with one another in school as in life. It is seen clearly in so many of our children and in the way they interact with and speak to each other and to the adults they meet and this is something we are all very proud of at Gagle Brook. Over the term we will have weekly assemblies and time in class to find out more about respect and how we can demonstrate this in all aspects of life as well as supporting others. During this time, we will also find out more about Floella Benjamin as a school and how she has impacted on so many with 'respect' at the forefront of her work. We are looking forward to sharing her book 'Coming to England'. As part of our learning this term, as a school, we will also be discovering how we can promote two of our One Planet Principles - Equity and Local Economy and Sustainable Transport. Look out for celebrations along the way which will include our whole school project on 'World Dot Day' with a focus on Sustainable Transport.

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Morning Routine

The gates will be open from 8.25am in the morning so that children are in school ready to start learning at 8.30am. The children will be enjoying mindfulness activities each morning before school assembly, therefore it is important that they are in school promptly to enjoy this with their class. Many thanks for your understanding with this.

Reading

Reading is at the heart of everything we do at Gagle Brook. Next week, teachers will be sending children home with reading packs. Within the packs will be a reading diary for you to record in. It is important that your child reads with you each day using their Read Write Inc book (Years 1-3), sound cards (Reception). Children from Nursery through to Year 3 will also bring home a quality picture book to share with you. This is a lovely opportunity for your child to read to you, but also for you to read to your child or even share the reading between you. Children will be encouraged to visit me once they have read 15 times at home for a sticker and then 30 times for a prize out of my special 'reading buddy' basket and so on. The team will stamp the diary to show each read so children can be part of the journey in counting how many reads they need to get to each milestone. The team will also read in school with your child on a daily basis in their Read Write Inc session and through weekly individual reads too. We would really welcome parent helpers in to help with weekly reading, so if you are interested please let a member of the team know.

Home Learning

From next week your child will be set a weekly home learning activity. For children in reception, this will be shared on Tapestry and for children in Years 1-3, this will be shared on their Purple Mash page. All classes will set home learning on a **Wednesday** and this will need to be returned to the class teacher by the following **Monday at the latest**. Please see the home learning letter which will come out next Tuesday giving more detail.

Treasure Station

We are excited to introduce our 'Treasure Station' which can be located in the main school reception. This is a special area where we recycle 'treasure' that we can use in our learning. Treasure include junk modelling (different sized boxes, containers, yoghurt pots), buttons, wool, corks, cardboard rolls – the list goes on. We would really appreciate your 'recyclable treasures' from home to support our curriculum. If Please drop these to Miss Hopkin in reception throughout the year to support our whole school recycling intent.

School Clubs

It is really exciting to be able to offer clubs again at school! Next week further information will come out about the clubs that will be happening at lunchtimes and after school. Please keep an eye out for this and how to sign up!

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Parking on drop off and collection

We are delighted that our school is growing, however are very aware that the mornings can become very busy with the number of cars being used to drop children to school and the limited parking for the school. Please can we ask that if you are able to walk, bike or catch the bus to school you avoid driving so that the school drop off is less congested, also making it safer for pedestrians and the local community. Many thanks for your ongoing support with this.

Upcoming diary dates...

Monday 6th September National 'read a book' day

Monday 6th September Start of new whole school 'enquiry question' – **Where will our future take us?**

Tuesday 7th September SPECIAL EVENT - Pop Up Café at Elmsbrook Business Centre 9am-midday.

Sunday 12th September National Grandparents Day

Monday 13th September Open Evening 'Meet the new Teacher' 3:30-4:00pm

Wednesday 15th September School Photographs

Friday 17th September 'Jeans for Genes' day

Friday 24th September Macmillan Cake sale

Monday 27th September European Day of Languages

Tuesday 28th September Phonics Workshop for reception and Year 1 parents 8.45am

Tuesday 5th October Phonics Workshop for Year 2 and 3 parents 8.45am

Further information to follow about events

I hope your child has enjoyed their first few days back in school as much as we have and that you have a lovely weekend.

With best wishes,

Emily Holloway and the Gagle Brook Team