

February 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to school, we hope you had a wonderful holiday with your families.

Our topic this half-term is '**Let it grow!**' – we will be learning about how plants grow and what we can do to help them. We will also look at animal babies as well as looking at ways we can protect our planet.

We will be celebrating 100 days of school with a **100 Days Smarter Party** on Monday 5th March, and we'll also be celebrating World Book Day on March 1st with **The Big Read**.

Reading

Every child will bring a reading book home at least once a week. Please read these with your child and write comments in their Reading Record. Children should have a book bag to carry their books and work to and from school. These are available from the school office. Please bring the book bag, books and Reading Record to school every day.

Please do not put water/drink bottles into book bags as they tend to leak and spoil the books.

We have set up a class log-in for both Canary Class and Cuckoo Class on the Oxford Owl website: www.oxfordowl.co.uk. Once on the website, please log-in with your class name eg: Canary Class or Cuckoo Class and the password for both is: **1234**

Tapestry Learning Journals

Our learning journals have now been online for a few months. We are seeing some parents logging in and commenting on their child's journal, and some parents have begun to add their own observations. This is **extremely important** as it helps us to see what your child is doing independently at home – and it may be completely different from what they do at school. Please see us if you have forgotten your log-in details or need them to be reset.

We would love to see children reading and writing in different places – get them writing shopping lists or writing cards for others, take a photo and upload it. It is also useful if you can record your child reading and upload it too.

If they have other interests (eg: swimming, football, drama, creative arts), these are also valuable additions to the journal, as are family celebrations – and also the use of technology. This might also include the health and self-care of your children. Can they dress themselves? Do they know about their own safety? Can they talk about their bodies and the effect food and exercise have on them?

We are holding a parent update session on Friday March 9th, at 3 pm. Please come along to discuss how you are finding the app, or if you are having any difficulties. If you do not have your log-in details or need them to be reset, please come along too.

Swimming and PE

We will let you know when the swimming pool is working again. Please bring your PE kit on Wednesdays in the meantime. This includes shorts/jogging bottoms, a t-shirt and plimsolls.

We will continue to use the systems in their classes- understanding how the day is organised, teaching them how to find and put away equipment and activities independently, encouraging them to speak to new adults and children, and helping them to play games which promote sharing, cooperating and turn taking.

May we remind you that the school day starts at 8:55 a.m. and ends at 3:30 p.m. Children should also bring a water bottle to school with their name on it. All items of clothing **must be labelled** with their name, especially school uniforms. We would like each child to have a bag with a 'change of clothes' in case of accidents – these clothes **must also be labelled**.

Also, should your child be absent from school, please telephone the office on 0208 800 4553. On their return to school, they are required to bring a note of explanation to authorise their absence; this should be given to the office.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to come and see us and have quick word or make an appointment to speak with us at a mutually convenient time.

Yours faithfully,

The Reception Team

(Miss McKay, Miss Bateman, Miss Samworth and Miss Dennis)