

Squirrels

Looking Ahead to Next Term

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are delighted to welcome all our new children and families to Squirrels Class and Broughton Primary School. This term is all about getting to know one another, settling into school routines, and becoming familiar with our school.

We have already begun learning our school rules: **Ready, Respectful and Safe**, and meeting the adults who help us throughout the school.

Our first topic is **Healthy Me**. We will be exploring ways to keep ourselves healthy, including healthy eating, personal hygiene, drinking water, looking after our belongings, and becoming more independent. Alongside this, we will be learning about each other's families, interests, and experiences.

In Maths, the children will investigate numbers that are special to them while learning to count, recognise and order numbers to 5 through songs, games, practical activities and nursery rhymes. We will also be developing fine motor skills through finger gym activities to strengthen little hands for mark making and writing. Our focus will be on developing a good pencil grip, correct letter formation, and writing names and letter sounds.

Our classroom is designed to encourage child-initiated learning, following the children's interests while providing carefully planned activities to support their next steps. We also enjoy whole-class carpet sessions for stories, phonics and shared learning.

Homework – Children will be asked to practise the sounds and tricky words they have been learning in school. To read/share set reading books at least three times a week.

Reading – During the first week, your child will bring home their first Little Wandle reading book. They will already have read this book in school with their teacher. Please read it together three times, talking about the pictures and story. The book contains useful questions and activities to support your reading. Please record each reading session in your child's reading diary. Your child will also bring home a Sharing Book of their choice for you to read to them. Sharing Books will be changed regularly once they have been enjoyed at home. (Please remove any other items from book bags.)

Book Bags – Please do not send toys into school. Children may attach one small keyring to help them identify their book bag.

Snacks and Drinks – School provides fruit, water and, if requested, milk. Please send your child with a named water bottle that can be refilled throughout the day.

Merits – Children can earn merits for following our school rules, being brave, trying new things, achieving individual targets and anything else they are proud of.

PE Kit – Please ensure your child's PE kit stays in school all week. It will be sent home each half term for washing.

Tapestry – We love seeing your child's achievements at home. Please share any 'wow' moments on Tapestry, such as learning to ride a bike, using a knife and fork independently, or showing kindness and perseverance.

Welcome in Wednesday – On **Wednesday 2nd October**, parents are warmly invited to visit Squirrels Class at **8.45am** for 20 minutes to see some of our learning.

We look forward to working closely with you throughout the year. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us by phone on **01794 301286**, via Tapestry, or by email at **adminoffice@broughton.hants.sch.uk**.

Kind regards, **Mrs Hudgell**