

Class Reception

The Bliss Charity School



Term 1



Dear parents/carers,

Welcome – or welcome back – to The Bliss Charity School. We hope you had a relaxing but fun summer and enjoyed all of the sunshine we were lucky to have had! I hope you are all feeling ready and eager for a super start to your child's learning experience at 'big school!' It was great seeing you and your child at our home visits and hopefully these will have helped your child be a little more familiar with Mrs Eales and myself before they started school. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have further questions as I know there are bound to be some that you thought of as soon as I left. I am very much hoping that your child has enjoyed their first few days of 'big school' and have come home with positive experiences that they have shared with you! Hopefully, we will explain the first term to you in this newsletter. If you have not yet shared your child's 'Getting to know me' booklet with us, please can this be brought into school as soon as possible.

I am very much looking forward to working with you this year to ensure your children have an amazing learning experience at Bliss.

Mrs. Caller



Term 1 Topic: *I am Special*



We hope you enjoyed sharing our focus book 'The Squirrels who Squabbled' over the holidays. We will be using the follow-up work that the children completed at home to support and develop their communication, language and personal/social skills. Our first topic is called 'I am Special' and where possible each area of the early years curriculum will be linked to this theme. The 'I am Special' topic will help the staff in Class R to really get to know your child during this very important 'settling in' time. It will concentrate on our village (or where the children live), the children's homes and their favourite toys. They will also have opportunities to share information about their interests, their likes and dislikes and their immediate and extended families.

During your child's first term there will a clear focus on their personal, social and emotional needs. We endeavour to ensure they are settled and secure in their new environment. The children will have lots of opportunities to play alongside each other and become familiar with the classroom and the adults within it.

Over the course of Term 1, we will be working with your child to form a baseline assessment. These observation-based assessments are then used to create learning experiences, linked with our current and future topics, to develop your child's knowledge, skills and understanding. Alongside this I will complete the statutory baseline assessment with each child which will be used to monitor progress throughout your child's time at Bliss.

Helping your child at home ...

In our classroom we have a 'Well Done' board to celebrate children's achievements at home. Please feel free to note down special achievements on a post-it note or a small piece of paper and pop it in your child's book bag so we can share and display them. These help your child with their personal, social and emotional development as well as their communication and language skills.

Your child will be able to select a book from our book corner to bring home and share with you. Please communicate this experience in their reading record as this helps us gain a deeper understanding of your child's engagement with books and text.

We will start learning phonic sounds once we have completed our baseline assessments. You will be notified each week about the sounds we will be learning and hopefully your child will be able to share their knowledge of these with you. In addition to learning sounds, we will start handwriting practice using our *Kinetic Letters* scheme. Practice sheets will be sent home with the children to complete and then return to us. We will be holding a meeting to explain these aspects of your child's learning in the autumn term and will let you know the details of this nearer the time.

Identifying numerals to at least 10 and counting objects accurately is a key skill that we teach in Class Reception. Please help your child with this at home. This could be done by identifying numbers in the environment, counting everyday objects, playing games and singing number songs, such as 5 currant buns or 10 sizzling sausages!

Independence is a key skill that we encourage in Class R. Please support your child to be as independent as they can when attempting new skills, particularly personal skills. Getting dressed, cutting up food and toileting independently are just a few examples of daily skills that requires lots of practice for a young child to master. Please allow your child to be as independent as possible when trying to be ready for 'big school'.

Class Reception information ...

- PE will be on Monday and Friday. Please could you ensure that your child has the appropriate PE kit, for both indoor and outdoor PE, in school in a named drawstring bag, clearly identifiable by them-please see uniform information on our website or in the pack you received before the summer for further information.
- Thursday will be our outdoor classroom day so please send your child in clothing suitable for the outdoors from Thursday 15th September. Long jeans, joggers or leggings would be suitable. The children do not need to come to school in uniform on this day.
- Please send in a pair of named wellies that can stay at school for your child to use in the sandpit and the outdoor classroom from the beginning of term.
- Due to the children's ages and development if you feel the need to supply your child with spare underwear etc. please put these into your child's PE bag.
- If your child requires any medication please give this to the office. Any asthma inhalers can be given to myself.
- School meal information has now been sent to you – please register and select meals for your child. Children will need to have lunches booked from Monday 12th September.
- The children will be dropped off and collected via the red gate on the front playground. On collection please wait away from this door so both your child and I can 'spot' you in among the crowd! A member of staff will come to the red gate before 8:55am to collect the class. At the end of the day (3:15pm) a member of staff will ensure each child is handed over to the adult collecting them. Please be patient during this time to ensure this is done safely and with minimum anxiety for every child.
- Please keep us informed regarding contact details for your child, including collection arrangements. This can either be done through the office or via the Class Reception staff.
- Any communication that we have for you will be put into your child's book bag. Likewise, if there is anything you have for us, please put it in the book bag as we check these on a daily basis.
- We encourage the children to bring in items from home that are linked with our topics. This year, we will be asking the children to bring 'show and share' items in on particular days: Monday = Earth (green) house children; Tuesday = Water (blue) house children; Wednesday = Fire (red) house children; and Thursday = Air (yellow) house children.
- Please do not hesitate to speak to myself with any questions/queries regarding your child starting at Bliss if you cannot find the information in the pack given to you last term. I cannot wait to start working with yourselves and teaching your children.

Mrs. Caller