

Thursday 7th September 2017

Dear Parents,

I would like to take this opportunity to say well done to all the children (and parents!) for getting through their first days at "big school".

Next week I will be introducing the children to our class mascot Squirt the turtle. Every Monday our class mascot will be taken home by one of the children. Each child will have a whole week to look after it at home and bring him back into school the following Monday. It is up to the child (and parents to help them) to fill two pages with things they did. This can include photographs, drawings, writing etc. It could be a day out, playing with favourite toys, going to grandparents, eating dinner together (anything!). Each Monday we will look at our mascot's book as a group and talk about his adventures that week. The children love it and it is a fun activity that you can do together at home.

Generally, reading books will be changed once a week and children will be read with twice a week. This can change depending on events in the school calendar and our parent helpers.

Your children will also find a sound/word booklet in their reading record. You can help your child at home by practising the sounds and words (reading off by heart). You will find sound packs in the book bag to keep at home to help you with the sounds and actions. Please ask if you are not sure about any of the sounds.

Your children have already received their Me and My World book. They can decorate their book anyway they wish e.g. with stickers or covering it in wrapping paper etc so that it is completely individual. Within the book they can put anything about themselves e.g. family, pets, house, bedroom, friends, holidays, birthday parties, special places, special occasions, favourite things, days out etc. They can draw, write and stick things in to the book. Photos are always very popular. On a Friday afternoon all the children will show each other their books. This creates fantastic discussions around similarities and differences.

Also, if you have not already provided a photo of your family would it be possible for us to have one ASAP? Once we have these the children draw a picture of their family and we use the photos as a discussion topic to help build their communication and language skills.



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Fruit is provided in class for snack time. Children will be encouraged to try different fruits and peel fruits like oranges and bananas independently. Emergency snacks (i.e. raisins) can be left in book bags if needed.

Every Monday is hot snack day. On this day we will set up a hot snack table where children can help to make their own toast. This will be another opportunity for the children to build upon their independence and problem solving skills. We will need to ask for a small donation for this of £2 per term – see slip below. If successful, we will then introduce more hot snacks for the children to help prepare. Please complete the slip below and put it in an envelope with your child's name on it. Then put it in your child's book bag where we will retrieve it.

Please remember that we have an open door policy here at Orsett and so if there is ever anything you are not sure about or would like to know more about please do not hesitate to come and speak to myself, Mrs McCandless or Miss Lloyd.

Yours faithfully

Mr Foster
Reception Class Teacher

Hot Snack			
Child's name		Class	
<i>Please tick</i>			
I give my permission for my child to eat and prepare a hot snack (If your child cannot have any of the following for any reason please inform me ASAP – White/brown bread, butter or margarine, jam and marmalade)			
I enclosed a voluntary contribution of £2			
Signed		Parent/carer	



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Motivating and inspiring our children to achieve... in a creative, caring, Christian community