



Lydiard Millicent CE Primary School
The Butts
Lydiard Millicent
Swindon
Wiltshire
SN5 3LR

Headteacher: Mrs Carly Luce



8th September 2017

Dear Parents/Carers,

What a fabulous first week we have had! It is a real privilege to be able to share the start of your children's journeys through school. We are sure that they will continue to have lots of fun, make new friends and love learning throughout their time at Lydiard.

This letter and the attached topic web should give you an outline of some of the things we will be doing during this first term at school. Our topic for the first two terms, up until the Christmas holidays, is "Time Travellers". For the first term, the focus will be "Here and Now" and after the half term holiday it will be "There and Then". "Here and Now" will involve us looking at ourselves, our lives and our families as the children settle into their new school and find their place in our school community. There will also be lots of bear themed activities as we have fun with the story "We're Going on a Bear Hunt". We involve the children in our planning and follow their interests while covering our objectives, so the topic web is a broad outline of the key areas we will focus on this term.

We follow the "Letters and Sounds" phonics scheme to teach the letter sounds needed for reading and writing. We will explain this further at a curriculum meeting on **Monday 18th September at 3.10pm in our classroom**. We do hope as many of you as possible will attend so that you will feel confident to work with us, teaching your child the sounds in readiness for reading and writing. Mrs Ambrose has very kindly offered to supervise children in our outside classroom for the duration of the meeting so that they can have fun while you learn! You are of course welcome to have your children with you at the meeting, but we would ask that they sit quietly, so that you can hear the correct pronunciation of the sounds, which is so important when learning to read and write.

This year, we are learning a cursive style of writing in Reception, in which all letters start from the line. This style of writing enables children to progress quickly and smoothly to a joined up writing style which, in turn, increases fluency and ease of writing. We will be sending home some letter formation sheets so that you can support them in the correct formation of letters to enable them to become fluent and confident writers. It is crucial that children learn the correct letter formation. We appreciate that this may mean that some children



Telephone: 01793770571

e-mail: admin@lydiardmillicentceps.org

Web page: www.lydiardmillicentcofe.wilts.sch.uk

have to relearn letter formation but the evidence base for this approach means that we believe it is an investment well worth making. There will be more information about this at the meeting as well as an opportunity to ask any questions you may have.

Throughout the year, we assess children against the Early Years Foundation Stage. As part of this, we use an online Interactive Learning Diary (ILD) in place of a paper learning journal. We use iPads and iPods to capture photo or video observations of your children as they are learning and then upload these observations to the individual online diaries. These diaries provide a snapshot of your children's experiences in school, rather than a comprehensive record of each day, so please do not be disappointed if your child's diary does not have entries for every day! One of the many advantages of the ILD is that the online diary is permanently open for you to view your child's diary and add your own observations and comments. This means that you can easily share experiences from home with school. If you have not already returned the ILD consent form please do so as soon as possible so that we can issue accounts. We are unable to issue any accounts until we have received all of the consent forms. If you require a new copy of the letter please ask at the School Office.

We hope you have found this information useful and informative. There will be quite a few letters sent home in the forthcoming weeks, so please don't forget to check your emails as well as your child's book bag regularly. The vast majority of correspondence is sent via the ParentMail email system but occasionally letters are sent in paper form. We will check all book bags on Mondays and Thursdays when the reading books are changed. If you have any notes or letters for us it is better if you can hand them to us at the gate before or after school or email the office as things can get lost in the depths of book bags!

Please make sure that EVERYTHING that your child wears or brings into school is clearly named. We can't stress strongly enough how important this is for the children, and us, as everything does look the same and remembering who came in with what is often an impossible task! Cloakroom space is at a premium, so drawstring bags only for PE kit please. Children should have a school book bag which fits neatly in their trays.

Another quick reminder, that water bottles are kept in the classroom so that the children can access them at all times. Only water is allowed in these and they must be named. Most children drink their water at lunchtime but children are allowed to bring in a separate lunchtime drink if desired. This cannot be a fizzy drink and should not be milk based as we do not have a fridge in which to store drinks. This drink needs to be in their lunchbox if they are having a packed lunch, or clearly labelled and left with the lunchboxes in the classroom if they are having a hot dinner.

Don't forget that the school provides a fresh fruit or vegetable snack at break time each day, but if you wish to provide your own you may. Please send it in, clearly labelled, and it will be stored in our snack tray until break time. Snacks must only be fruit or vegetables, dried fruit snacks such as raisins are permitted.

We look forward to getting to know you all better. If you have any questions regarding the information in this letter, or other more general queries, please don't hesitate to talk to us. We are always available both before school and after school each day. Emails can be sent to the school office and phone messages can also be left with the office staff. Congratulations on reaching the end of this letter and thank you for your support!

Kind regards,

The Early Years Team



Telephone: 01793770571

e-mail: admin@lydiardmillicentceps.org

Web page: www.lydiardmillicentcofe.wilts.sch.uk