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Dear Parents,

Many thanks to you all for the welcome we received during the home visits. It was lovely to meet all of the children within their comfort zone and also a great opportunity to introduce ourselves and have an informal chat with you all. Through this process we have begun to gain a full picture of how to best support your child's learning and development.

At *Norwood Primary School* we have adopted the *Edison Learning* programme. There are two parts to the programme. The first focuses on developing children's core learning skills. These are the skills that are fundamental to learning and performance in education, work and life. The first of these that we will be focussing on is *Learning with Others*. Within this unit we will be hoping to achieve:

- I can identify a place to put my belongings in/ away.
- I can put objects and materials away when I finish an activity/ when I am asked.
- I can sit down quietly when I am asked.
- I can demonstrate that I understand basic rules and routines by following them.
- I can dress myself and undress myself.

The second part is the *Integrated Learning Unit*. Our unit for this term is titled *Autumn*. During this half term we will be taking part in activities that focus on:

- Introducing 'Me'
- Harvest
- Autumn
- Colour

Through first hand learning we aim to make your child's early learning experiences as exciting and motivating as possible. During this term, we will be exploring the local environment by carrying out an Autumn walk around Cuckoo's Hollow. We also hope to share some Harvest celebrations with the local community. Throughout the year we encourage children to share special times and experiences to provide the class with knowledge and understanding of different cultures and beliefs. This is particularly successful when children are able to experience all areas of a celebration e.g. clothing, music, food tasting.

We would be very grateful for any family support in providing and supporting the children during these first hand experiences. If you feel you would like to help, please apply for a CRB check (forms available at the school office) and bring the completed certificate to the school office.

Read, Write Inc, our reading and writing programme, is taught daily within Reception class. It follows a systematic approach to teaching phonics and applying these to reading and writing. We will begin teaching *Read, Write Inc* once the children are in school full time. Home learning will support the sounds taught within school. There will be an opportunity for families to find out about this programme and how to support your child during the Autumn term. Details of this opportunity will follow. In the meantime, if you would like to find out more, you may wish to visit:

<http://www.oup.com/oxed/primary/rwi/>



At times, we will be using the school grounds to carry out our learning and so it would be helpful to have a named pair of wellies in school as soon as possible. Our scheduled PE time is Wednesday and Thursday morning. We will begin PE immediately and make time for children who are in school during the afternoons to also take part in PE. However we may choose to use other opportunities throughout the week for Physical Development. Depending upon the weather we will be using indoor and outdoor facilities and so it would be ideal for your child to have their full PE kit in school at all times. PE kits will be sent home at the end of each half term.

It is vital that all items of your child's clothing are named. As personal items are difficult to recognise, it will enable members of the team to identify your child's clothing immediately. Labels can be bought and sewn in or there are special pens available from local stockists that will not wash out. If unnamed items of clothing are found, they will be placed in the *Lost Property* box in the children's cloakroom. This will be available on the Reception playground each Friday afternoon. You are also welcome to look through the box when bringing your child to school each morning.

We will visit the library each Monday. During this time, your child will choose a book. It will not necessarily be a book that they can read, as yet, but one to share with adults at home. Books can be kept for up to 14 days.

Once the children are in school full time, the Reception playground gate will be open from 8:45-8:55. Parents/ Carers are welcome to arrive at anytime between 8:45-8:55 to enable the children to be ready to begin the first session at 9am. If you arrive after 8:55am, please enter school via the school office and sign in.

At home time, the gate will be open from 3pm. We ask parents/ carers to wait in the Reception playground. Children will be brought to each parent/ carer by a member of the reception team. If for any reason a different adult will be collecting your child, please inform a member of the Reception team or telephone the school office. Due to safety reasons, we will not be able to send your child home until a familiar adult is present within the Reception playground.

Occasionally, children forget individual items as they leave school. In order to ensure all children are safe and to avoid confusion, we ask that your child waits with their parent/ carer until all children have been sent home.

Within the children's cloakroom, you will find a *Parent/ Carer's Notice Board*. The board enables us to provide up-to-date information regarding events and copies of current letters. If you wish to speak to a member of the Reception Team, we are available from 8:45-8:55 am and 3:15-3:25 pm. For longer discussions please make an appointment at the office.

Thank you in anticipation of your support with your child's learning.

Yours Sincerely,

Miss J. Swift

Miss L. Back

Mrs D.Reynolds

Miss J. Greenwood

Mrs L. Lewin

