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Dear Parents/Carers,

Many thanks for helping your child to settle into Reception class. Many children are completing morning routines independently and some have even started to say their goodbyes at the cloakroom door! Well done to all of the children and thank you to all of the adults who have helped the children with a smooth transition to primary school.

Integrated Curriculum

Our topic for this term continues to be 'Autumn'. This half term our activities will focus on:

- Fireworks
- Elmer- Colours
- Special Things and Special Times
- Christmas

Home learning Project

As part of the activities for 'Special Things and Special Times', I would like the children to share some of their own special things and special times through a home learning project. Please could families support children to create a way of sharing their special things and special times. The project could be completed in any way, for instance photographs, a book, a shoe box filled with artefacts. The home learning project is due in on 23rd November 2009.

Read, Write Inc

Read, Write, Inc is proving to be very successful and the children are thoroughly enjoying their learning. The children are currently learning a new sound each day and revising those taught at the end of every five days. They will be bringing home a homework book to practice and reinforce sounds learned within school. The sounds taught so far will be in the book sent out this week.

When writing the letters you may wish to vary your approach. You might choose to help your child to write the letters using a paintbrush, in sand or simply by making the movement with your child's finger in the air. To support pencil grip, I have included a triangular grip for each child. The grip will fit on a pencil and can be kept at home.

Please support your child to learn and revise the sounds. This home learning does not have a due date but will be reviewed regularly. Ideally, children should practise the sounds for 5-10 minutes per day.

To support parents/carers, there will be a Read, Write Inc information meeting on Thursday 5th November from 5:30-6:30pm. During the meeting, I will share how to say 'pure sounds' for each letter and ways to support your child's early reading development. Further information is detailed within the 'Read, Write Inc Information meeting' letter which was issued this week to all Reception and new parent/ carers to Norwood Primary School.

Core Learning Skills

During the next half term, our learning skills will focus on 'Developing Independence and Responsibility':

Reception class will focus on these 'I can' statements:



- I can make simple choices about what is good to eat / good for me and what is not.
- I can express my opinion of right and wrong.
- I can suggest ways to help others.
- I can demonstrate that I understand basic rules and routines by following them.

To support your child's learning you may wish to follow some of these learning skills at home.

PE

Our scheduled PE time continues to be Wednesday and Thursday mornings. 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.

Christmas Performance

Reception class will be sharing a Christmas performance with family members on Thursday 17th December. Three tickets will be allocated to each family. More details will follow at the beginning of December.

Lost Property

It is vital that all items of your child's clothing are named, including shoes. As personal items are difficult to recognise, it will enable members of the team to identify your child's clothing immediately. If unnamed items of clothing are found, they will be placed in the *Lost Property* box in the children's cloakroom.

Parent/ Carer's Noticeboard

The *Parent's/Carer's Notice Board* has moved outdoors under the canopy to enable parents/carers to read the notices before and after school. Whenever letters are sent out with reply slips, we will endeavour to add spare paper copies to the noticeboard. We aim to reduce the amount of paper used by sending letters through *Parentmail*, however we understand that printers are not always reliable and therefore you may wish to use these to return messages to school. Please check the notice board daily for any updates.

If you wish to speak to members 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 for all of your support with your child's learning.

Yours Sincerely,

The Reception Team

Miss J. Swift

Mrs L.Lewin

Miss L.Back

Miss J. Greenwood

Mrs D.Reynolds

