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Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you for all of your support during the Autumn Term. Many of the children are following daily routines independently and adapting well to school life. In order to continue to develop their independence and prepare them for Key Stage 1, we would like all children to be able to leave their parents/carers at the cloakroom door from the beginning of the Summer Term. Some children are already doing this, however you may wish to approach this gradually during the Spring Term.

Our topic next term is 'Animals'. During the first half of term our activities will focus on:

- Animals at Home (Pets and Vets)
- Farm animals
- Wild animals

First hand experiences

Animals at Home

We have invited a guide dog to school to support the learning in this area. The children will begin to understand that animals at home may also be 'working' pets who support their owners. If any families own a pet that they would feel could cope within a school environment, we would love for them to visit. Please let us know in advance so that we may make the necessary arrangements.

Farm and Zoo Animals

To support the children's learning we will be visiting a zoo during the first half term. I am currently investigating a trip to Hamerton Zoo to enable the children to see some farm animals and wild animals. The approximate price per child for this trip is £12 each (entrance fee, travel and insurance). We would also need adults to accompany us at a price of £6.50 each (entrance fee). Further details will follow in January, however, if you wish to find out more, the link below will take you to their website:

<http://www.hamertonzoo.com/index.htm>

Clean Gang

I have invited the 'Clean Gang' to visit Reception on Tuesday 9th February. The 'Clean Gang' is a service provided by the school nurse team. The team bring stories, activities and DVDs for the children to share and develop an understanding of keeping their bodies healthy and clean. There is no charge for this experience.

Pedestrian Training

'Stepping out Together' the Pedestrian Training scheme for children will be coming into Reception to support them and their families in crossing the road safely. The dates available are Tuesday 23rd February and Wednesday 24th February. There will be two sessions each day. These are 9:15 am and 10:30 am. Each session lasts approximately 45 minutes. Ideally each child should be accompanied by a family member to support the children in receiving consistent messages about keeping safe. Further details will follow at the beginning of February.



Home learning project

The home learning project for the coming half term is to share information about a chosen animal. This could be a family or pet or a wild animal in which your child is particularly interested. The project is a family effort and could be shared as a book, collection of pictures, a model or any other creative way you can think of. The project is due in on Monday 8th February.

Core Learning Skills

The Core Learning Skills for the approaching half term is known as 'Improving own Learning and Performance'. Reception will focus on:

- I can find my way around the school.
- I can identify when I have succeeded in doing something for the first time.
- I can make simple judgments about my work i.e. what I think is good, what is not so good.
- I can follow a one or two part verbal instruction given by an adult.
- I can use simple picture cues / symbols to enable me to understand what I need to do next.

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

Read, Write, Inc is proving to be very successful and the children are thoroughly enjoying their learning. Please support your child by revising their knowledge, using 'Fred talk' in conversation e.g. Please get your c-o-a-t, writing the sounds accurately and sharing books together.

Sharing Celebrations

Norwood's Got Talent will be held on Thursday 4th February. Children can enter by completing an entrance form which will be available at the school office in the New Year. Children are welcome to prepare a performance of their talent individually or with a group of friends. Children will need to prepare their performance for auditions that will be held at the end of January. Successful acts will then be chosen to perform at the talent show. The talent show is a thoroughly enjoyable experience for children to show off their skills. Families of the children selected will be invited to watch the Talent Show during an evening performance on Thursday 4th February.

The Valentine's disco will be held on Thursday 11th February. Details will follow from the NSA nearer the time.

We will be sharing a Mother's Day performance on Thursday 18th March at 2:30pm. Family members are invited to join us. Three seats will be allocated to each family. However, any seats that are not required by families will be distributed to those that request spare tickets. Please note that spare seats cannot be guaranteed.

Please continue to leave your child's full PE kit in school from Monday to Friday. Please ensure that your child has appropriate indoor and outdoor PE clothing within their kit.

Please continue to provide your child with a water bottle. Children are encouraged to drink water throughout the day. We also have a water fountain that the children may use. Children are welcome to drink juice and squash at lunchtimes. This needs to be in a separate bottle and kept with your child's lunchbox. Milk is also available at breaktime. As a healthy school, we only allow children to drink water at any other time.

We currently provide milk and fruit for all children within Reception class. Fruit is provided by a government scheme for all children up to the age of 7. However, we are only permitted to provide free milk for children under the age of five. If you would like your child to continue to have milk after their fifth birthday, please complete a form and post it to the *Cool Milk* company. Milk forms are attached to the Reception Notice board.



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. If unnamed items of clothing are found, they will be placed in the *Lost Property* box in the children's cloakroom.

The *Parent/Carer's Notice Board* is continually updated. We hope you are finding it useful. If you have any suggestions that you would like us to add, please let the Reception Team know.

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

