

Bawdsey CEVC Primary School

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Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to EYFS! We are so pleased to welcome you back after the summer holidays and to meet all our new children and families.

The children have already shown wonderful confidence, enjoying exploring our revamped classroom and garden, and we are looking forward to an exciting school year.

This term our topic is 'Marvellous Me!' This is a lovely opportunity for the children to gain confidence by sharing what is important to them. We will be learning about families, our homes and where we live and the skills that make us special. We will explore our similarities and differences, celebrating the things that make us unique!

We have started our topic by reading the Colour Monster and learning to name the emotions we experience. We are also learning some useful breathing and mindfulness techniques, which can help us navigate big feelings. One of our favourites is [Rainbow Breathing](#). If you'd like to find out more about the benefits mindfulness for children, you can visit [Headspace for kids](#).

Communication and Language

Supporting children to communicate confidently is central to the EYFS. We will be enjoying lots of stories, songs and rhymes, and activities focused on oracy to develop our vocabulary and understanding.

Phonics

Children in Reception have started their daily phonics sessions. These are fun, interactive sessions which last between 15 and 20 minutes and introduce children to the phonemes (sounds), which are the building blocks of learning to read. We will be in touch soon to invite you to a phonics workshop, in the meantime please visit [Little Wandle's parent pages](#) for lots of useful information and videos about phonics and how you can support your child at home.

Reading books

From next week children will be bringing home reading books. Please sign and return the slip at the end of the attached letter to agree to our borrowing terms.

Reception children will bring home two books-

- A reading practice book matched to the child's phonic stage that they can read independently. The children will read this book with an adult three times at school, before it is sent home. During the first reading we focus on decoding, using the phonemes we have learnt to sound out each word. The second reading builds prosody, as we explore how we can use our voices to add expression and meaning. Our third reading focuses the children's comprehension skills, ensuring they understand what they are reading. Repeated practice is key for building children's fluency. We ask that you aim

to listen to your child read a further three times at home, recording each time in your child's reading diary.

- A sharing book that they can listen to, talk about and enjoy with their parent/carer. Children are not expected to read the shared book independently.

Nursery children will bring home a sharing book to enjoy at home.

Books will come home on Thursdays and should be returned to school on Mondays. We suggest keeping your child's reading books in their book bag so they can be kept safe and are also available for us to read at school.

Maths

Our first topic in Maths is to match, sort and compare. We will be exploring what makes a match, comparing pictures and objects, and using the language 'same' and 'different'. Playing games such as snap, or matching pairs at home is a great way to support the children's learning.

Understanding the World

Our history topic is 'Peek into the past'. We will be sharing our memories and experiences to develop our understanding of the past, starting by finding out how we have changed over our lifetimes. We would be very grateful if you could send in photos of the children as babies and toddlers for us to compare. The photos will be copied for use in class and returned to you.

In Science we will be finding out about Humans. We will learn about our senses, the different parts of our body and dental hygiene.

Our Big Question in R.E is 'Why is the word God so important to Christians?' This is an opportunity to explore how different things are important to different people and to learn about respect.

A few gentle reminders

Please make sure everything your child brings to school is labelled. This includes packed lunch boxes, bottles and bags. As we have been lucky enough to have plenty of September sunshine, please apply sun cream before school and ensure children bring their named sunhats every day.

Our P.E days are Tuesday and Friday. Reception children can come to school in their P.E kits, Nursery children who are staying for those afternoons will need to be dressed appropriately for plenty of running around.

To protect children with severe allergies our class is dairy free. Please ensure any snacks or birthday treats you send are dairy free. (This does not apply to lunch box items to be eaten in the hall. These foods can contain dairy.) We will continue to ask all children to wash their hands upon arrival, before and after eating.

We would love to hear about any 'wow' moments the children would like to share and celebrate in school. These could be anything from an exciting day out, to a 'first' or something which really caught your child's attention. The children will be coming home with a sheet for you to record their wow moments next week.

Best wishes,

The EYFS team

Mrs. Williams, Mrs. Backhouse and Mrs. Collins