



Doddiscombsleigh Primary School

Doddiscombsleigh, Exeter

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Dear Parents,

Welcome back to Acorn Class and welcome to our new starters! I hope you have all had a fantastic summer break and managed to take a well-deserved rest. We have lots of exciting things planned in the coming weeks and I am delighted to be back teaching Acorn class and welcoming the new children in Reception. We have an action-packed term ahead of us!

Class Teachers: Mr Collings and Miss Jackson

Teaching Assistants: Mrs Elworthy and Mrs Cook

PE Teacher: Mr Malone (Achieve4All - Friday afternoons)

Music Teacher: Mrs Price (Thursday afternoons)

If you have any queries about your child, please do not hesitate to contact the school and book a telephone appointment, if they can't be answered at drop off or pick up times, I can then contact you at a time convenient. I appreciate that current pick up times don't allow a great deal of communication between us.

Medication

The school can only administer prescribed medication which needs to be left in the office with a signed permission form. Any other medication, including over-the-counter medications, will need to be administered by parents/guardians.

Reading

Children learn to read using Read Write Inc which is a rigorous and consistent scheme. Children will receive a book to take home once they have been assessed (in Y1 and Y2). These books work with the sounds that the children are learning in school. Children in Reception will be provided with a library book from the beginning of the scheme and will receive RWI books in line with their phonics sessions in due course. We ask for you to read this book with your child for a week, reading it at least three times. Reading a book multiple times helps a child develop reading skills for the following reasons:

- Work on the decoding and reading of trickier words.
- Focus on the comprehension of the story itself
- Increase fluency, pace and expression on the book which can only be managed with the above.

A short workshop explaining the ins and outs of RWI, phonics and how your child will learn to read will be organised for this term. Please keep an eye out for the date.

Please make a note in their diary of the book read/date so we know what's happening at home. If a book is too tricky or easy, please also let us know. I appreciate that life is busy so reading may not happen every day but do try, it has a huge impact on your child's progress.

Swimming

Acorn will be swimming later in the year and further details will be provided in plenty of time.

School Uniform

As always, the children will be expected to wear the correct uniform to school each day. Details of the school uniform requirements can be found on the school website. All children with long hair must tie it back and children's hair should be a natural colour.

Please, please, please can I ask that all items of clothing are labelled, coats, jumpers and wellies especially. Not only does this stop adults in school from going crazy but also saves a great deal of time.

Children should come to school in their Forest school kit on Wednesdays and PE kits on Fridays.

Staying Healthy

We encourage the children to bring healthy snacks into school for break time and to have a balanced lunch if they are packed lunch. Due to a variety of food allergies, we unfortunately cannot accept food being bought in to share with the class such as birthday cake.

Forest School and Outdoor learning

As we move slowly into Autumn, the weather will begin to turn. Wednesday afternoons will be spent outside for Forest School activities regardless of the weather so please dress accordingly. If children are able to bring in a specific 'school' pair of wellies that would be ace as children will be accessing the outdoors frequently for various learning in other subjects as well.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions

Kind regards,

Kier Collings