

Spring Term news for Lake class January 2020

Dear Parents,

Welcome back and Happy New Year from all of us! Firstly, we would like to thank you for all the cards, presents and good wishes you gave us before Christmas, they were all very much appreciated!

We are all looking forward to a new year and new exciting learning opportunities.

It's good to talk...

We genuinely enjoy talking about our children and the work that we do - please always contact us if you have a question or anything that you would like to talk about. Here is a reminder of how best to find us if you would like to chat ...



- At the start of the day, when you handover your child to us, you can pass quick messages.
- At the end of every day - this is the best time to discuss anything that may not be a 'quick' message or arrange a meeting with us.
- Fill in a 'WOW note from home' sheet! We love to hear all about your child's successes at home. Whether your child is getting dressed by themselves, riding a bike by themselves or really making progress with their learning, write it down on a note and hand it to the teacher at the start of the day on the playground. When you would like a 'WOW' sheet - please see a member of Lake staff.

Class topics.

We talk to the children frequently about their interests in order to plan activities that engage them. We have to ensure that our plans enable them to access the curriculum they need. Over the next half term, we will plan a few different shorter topics rather than one longer one to ensure that there is something for everyone! The three main topics that we will focus on in the Spring term include:

- 'Frozen' - a topic about The North and South Poles and the animals that live there. This will be a chance for all our budding explorers to find out about colder places and to identify some areas on our class globe
- 'The Day the Crayons Quit!' - a short topic about colour, giving the chance for all our budding artists to draw as well as paint and explore how to mix different colours!
- 'Chinese New Year!' - another short focus on this fantastic celebration at the end of January.

We know that the children will love these topics - without knowing it, they have planned them!

An outline of the key activities for the topic 'Frozen' can be seen in the attached document 'Overview for the Spring Term.' This document also outlines how you can support your child at home and we hope you find it useful.

Inevitably, we will be spending a significant amount of time outside **every day**. It is essential that children have at school a warm coat, wellies as well as a waterproof coat and trousers with them **every day**. Without these items they will not be able to join in all the fun with their friends!!

Individual plans for children

All children are individuals and develop at different rates and have very different needs. We invest time in observing and assessing them as individuals and then plan for these needs. Reception parents will receive their child's individual plans in the next week.

When you see your child meeting their 'next steps' or 'targets,' please share that excitement with us by filling in a 'wow' note which we will place in your child's reading folder shortly. We will read these notes with the class and celebrate your child's success!



Start and end of the day routines...

Now that the children are settled into school life we would like to encourage you to say 'good bye' at the patio door without entering the room and watch with pride as the children start their school day independently and place their own items on their pegs (unless you have a quick message of course!) This will ensure that the classroom is calm and quiet and that we are all ready for learning at 9am. Please be aware, for **safety reasons**, we need to lock our school gate at 9am and parents should have left the site by then. We open the doors at 845am so that you have lots of time to say your goodbyes!

At the **end of the day** please can you help us by coming up the steps by the white patio door when you see your child with the member of staff. This way you will be able to help your child with their belongings as they walk down the steps. We will also be able to pass information to you discretely and speedily.

'Me and My World' books



Children love to share with us their news. In order to help your child explain all about their experiences we will be sending home a red '**My World Book**.' We ask that this is kept in your child's reading folder and that when your child has news to share about something they have experienced or achieved outside school, simply add something to the book that will help them to tell us all about it. For example, if your child wants to tell us about a fantastic walk in the woods they have been on, you might add a short note about what you did or something they said, a picture they have drawn or add a leaf or feather that they found. These notes or props will aid your child as they explain their thinking to others. Other examples might include...

- photos of a family trip out (a leaflet of where you have been will do)
- a comment from a family member when they came to visit
- a drawing of an exciting experience
- tickets from a journey or a cinema trip
- a picture of a fantastic model
- a piece of writing from your child
- a comment from an adult about something interesting that has been said by your child.

I will add examples to the book when it comes home - so you have a really clear idea of how easy it is! Please don't worry - I will always help!

The children will have an opportunity to share their books with their peers and talk about their experiences throughout the week. The drawings, photos or leaflets in the books will serve as a clear prompt to help them talk about their experiences and will support their developing talking skills. Listening to other children as they share their books will aid their listening and questioning skills.

Please note that there will not be a set day for the children to share their books... we simply look through them throughout the week, a few at a time. One entry per week **as an average** is ideal. Our top tip is to add something to the book at the weekend and bring it in each Monday morning.

As always, if you have any questions, worries or great news do not hesitate to come and tell us. We are all looking forward to another exciting and fun-filled term at school. Many thanks for your continued support,

Mrs Hoddell and Mrs Butcher and all of our Lake Team

