

9 September 2022

Dear families,

Welcome to Tiger Class! The whole team is really looking forward to sharing the year ahead with you and your child. We plan to offer an exciting, stimulating and inspiring learning experience, and can't wait to hear the ideas your children bring into the classroom too – we learn from them as much as they learn from us!

Settling into school life

This half-term, we will be focussed on settling the children into the new routines of school life, and making sure everybody feels comfortable and confident in their new environment. There are lots of new situations for children to get used to, from being in school for the whole day, to having lunch at school, to using new toilets independently, to making new friends and of course, getting used to spending time away from home.

This term we will be learning around a theme: All About Me! This will allow us to learn all about the children's interests, families and friends. The children will create their own self portrait and this will be displayed in the classroom. We would like to request a family photo for your child to share with the class and add to Our Families Tree display.

The children will also be learning new rhymes and about their senses. They will explore questions such as: What are their senses? How does each sense function? What experiences do senses give us? What would it be like to not have one of our senses?

In maths we will be learning lots of new number songs and we will create lots of problem solving opportunities.

Spare clothes

In Reception we will be busy getting messy and having lots of fun, so we are asking parents to bring in spare clothes in a bag. Which can be left on your child's coat-peg. This should include:

- A white polo top
- A pair of black bottoms
- A pair of socks
- A pair of **black** trainers / plimsolls / shoes
- Lots of underwear



Names in clothes – Please can we remind you to name every item of school clothing your child has. You can write it with a pen or attach an iron-on label. Their jumpers, trousers, skirts, top, outdoor jackets and spare clothes. We are training children to be responsible for their clothes but without a name it can be difficult to find again.

Here are important days of our week:

Tuesday – We will encourage all of the children to borrow a book from our reading corner. Please make sure your child has a book bag or a bag with them. The children would usually take the book for a whole week and return and change their book every Monday. So, please make sure you return the book on a Monday or they will not be able to take out a new book. Also, if a book is lost there will be a charge which will be the full cost of the book.

Wednesday - Every Wednesday we will cook something as a class. Cooking is really fun as this develops children's communication and mathematical skills. A list of the ingredients used for cooking will be sent out weekly.

Friday – Celebration assembly where we celebrate what has happened in the Early Years. Your child will get a chance to be star of the week, take our Travel Tigers home and get a certificate for demonstrating values and virtues that are important to Mulberry Wood Wharf Primary School.

Phonics

At Mulberry Wood Wharf we use the scheme Read Write Inc to teach phonics. During the next couple of weeks we will be assessing the children on their reading and writing abilities so that we can plan our teaching around their needs. At this age, there will be a range of abilities and this is absolutely fine. Children learn at different rate and through different means. We will be in touch about the phonics books the children will be taking home in a couple of weeks.

When learning to read your child will be learning to recognise and read by sight some key words. The words that we will be focusing on this half term will be:

- at, a, can, dad, mad, mat, sad, sat, is, I, go, and, the, on, it, no.

There are many engaging and interactive ways to practice learning these words by sight, such as:

- Playing Snap
- I Spy by placing the word cards around the room
- Hiding the words around the house and reading them when found
- Musical Sight Words Game – see [here](#) for how to play

We want the children to be able to read these words by sight and still have fun. By learning key words by sight, your child will become a more confident reader. Please speak to one of the reception team or visit Read Write Inc's [website](#) to learn more about the scheme and other fun activities to do when learning to read.

Reception Baseline Assessment

The Reception Baseline Assessment is an interactive and practical assessment that creates a starting point for measuring the progress schools make with their pupils. The assessment used to support children in their learning. The areas they are assessed on are early literacy, communication, language and mathematics. If you would like to further information please visit see the parent information pamphlet here: [Reception Baseline Assessment](#).

School Trips

School trips are a wonderful opportunities for children to learn about the world around them and their community. This half term we will be going on a local trip to the Mudchute Farm to see the seasonal changes of Autumn and of course the animals. We will in touch soon about the details and date for our trip to Mudchute Farm.

Healthy bodies, healthy minds.

A gentle reminder that healthy children need:

- Plenty of sleep: 10-12 hours every night. This means bedtime at 7pm!
- Fresh fruit and vegetables every day.
- Drink lots of water.
- Clean, healthy teeth – your child must brush their teeth every morning and every night before bed to stay healthy

PLEASE ENSURE YOUR CHILD HAS A WATER BOTTLE WITH THEM EACH DAY so they can drink freely throughout the morning.

Bedtime

When children get the right amount of sleep (10 - 12 hours each night), they are much fresher for the day and it has a positive impact on their behaviour and learning. Children in Reception should go to bed around 7-7.30pm. Try to stick to this routine even at weekends so your child will develop good sleep habits.

Home Learning

Home Learning is an effective tool used to support the learning in the classroom and to help children develop into independent learners. In EYFS children learn through experiences, hands on learning and play. Home Learning will focus on developing and supporting communication/language skills, understanding of the world and physical development. Home Learning will be set as projects where the children will be able to learn or create something to share with their classmates. This half term's home learning will be:

- A Family Tree – a small poster about their families, where they come from and activities they like to do.
- Tiger Model – create a tiger model using clay, playdough, junk modelling, or other materials. Before making the tigers, look at some books or short videos to learn about the animal. Discuss characteristics of tigers and where they live. After learning about tigers begin the creating!

- Reading and Nursery Rhymes – read books that come home and practice singing nursery rhymes learnt at school. This will support the further development your child’s communication and language skills.

Reading

‘The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you’ll go’ — Dr. Seuss

One of the most important things you can do with your child is to **Read, read, read!** This week the children have loved hearing a range of stories and singing many nursery rhymes. Please take 10 minutes to read with them every night. This is so important for your child – it will help to develop their communication, language and concentration skills, and fosters curiosity and creativity.

Learning Journeys

We look forward to sharing your child’s learning and how we capture this. We will be sending further details about what this will look like at Mulberry Wood Wharf shortly. However, please do not hesitate to speak to the class teacher or one of our teaching assistants about your child’s learning.

Sarah Jane and Anita will be in contact with all our families about exciting information and opportunities for the children and families.

Here’s wishing you and your family the best start to the new academic year! If you have any questions about anything, please do not hesitate to ask us!

Lindsay, Reemay and Verity