



7th September 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

We hope you all had a lovely summer holiday. A special welcome our new school starters Angus, Jack, James, Barnaby, Archie, Liliana, Brendan, Noah, Holly, Larry, Zac, and Wilson. What a great start they have made this week. Our twelve year one children have been brilliant in their new role and have been a great support to them.

Teaching staff are Mrs Jodi Dawson, Mrs Anna Perry and Mrs Paula Reynolds. Jodi will be working on a Monday and Tuesday all day, Anna will be working on a Thursday and Friday all day and we will alternate every other Wednesday with Paula taking them for Widcombe Woodlanders every Wednesday morning. We also have a Claire and Katherine as our full time teaching assistants and some children will do some activities with Fiona. We also have a South Dartmoor student Molly who is with us every Thursday. We also have other volunteers in throughout the week who we are most grateful for. They come in and listen to children read, help out at Woodlanders etc. If you would like to come in and help with reading, gardening, library etc please come and see us. We strive to ensure that we all work closely together to ensure that your child has a fun, relevant and continuous learning experience in Webburn. (Timetables are displayed in the classroom corridor for your information.) If you are able to offer weekly support with our Widcombe Woodlanders, it would be really appreciated.

Year 1 children will be following the National Curriculum for their year group, and reception children will be working within the EYFS (Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum). Year 1 subjects and the Early Years Areas of Learning will tie in together, bound by our topic. This half term our topic is "**A Drop goes Plop**" (please see separate topic overview displayed in the classroom) this will include looking at the weather, streams and rivers and onto the sea. The children enjoy our creative approach to their curriculum which allows them to discuss at the outset what they would like to learn and do and then our plans stem from the children's ideas and interests. We are also planning a whole school trip to Dawlish Warren. See the weekly newsletter for more information and dates.

Children are provided with a healthy snack by the school (fruit or veg) and a drink of milk or water at morning playtime. Children must also have a named water bottle each day that they can help themselves to. Please find attached to this letter some "I can" sheets. You can fill one of these in as often or as little as you like and it can be about anything you and your child are proud of, from learning their letter sounds to riding their bike. We love to share and celebrate good news and again it helps us with knowing how your child is learning and developing at home. If you need any more throughout the year you will find them on the Webburn section of the school

website or pop in and pick some up from the parents notice board in Webburn. Please name and date them.

Numeracy and Literacy.

All children will experience daily literacy, reading, phonics and numeracy sessions, but of course the nature and duration of these will be tailored to the children's ages and needs. We hope to also make lessons in these areas very much in line with the topic, with relevant stories and non fiction texts. Copies of our medium term plans can be found displayed in the classroom.

Reading

Your child will regularly read at school through guided reading and individual reading sessions. Your child will bring home a reading book and a reading record book. It is so valuable to take some time each day to share this book with your child and we strongly encourage you to write a comment in the reading record book each time. Inside the reading record book you will find a useful insert on the letter sounds and information to support reading. Please take time to have a look at this. We do read your comments regularly and we can celebrate with the children if they have done well or address any concerns you may have. We will write in these books for you too so that there is a good line of communication about your child's reading. For reception children these early books will be simple picture books where they can be encouraged to "tell the story", talk about what might happen next, learn the characters names and so on. If you would like any guidance with supporting your child's reading or have any concerns please feel free to talk to us at any time. ***You are more than welcome to help yourself to the reading books at drop off times and pick up as and when you need a new one (maybe twice/three times a week) and work your way through our reading scheme with your child. Please ask for help on how to do it.*** If your child comes in on the bus we appreciate this is difficult and that is where our volunteer helpers are really valued. Each week we will learn new letter sounds and we will be sending home phonics charts with these sounds on them. Please use these daily with your child if you can. As a general guide we introduce 4 new sounds a week and also learn 'tricky words'. Year 1 children will be given a new list of spelling words each week to practice at home. If your child is finding their spelling words easy, they can think of sentences with these words in them, or think of other words which are spelt the same way. Feel free to learn them in a fun way- paint them on big paper, or build them with playdough! Children may bring home other home learning sheets too which you may wish to complete and send in.

Every **Friday**, the children will have a library session where they will be able to choose a book to take home and share. We ask that the children return the book every Friday please. It is great to get into the routine of returning the book each week as the children really do enjoy choosing a new one for the weekend. It's a lovely special time which the children really value. In light of the above it would be very helpful if your child could bring in their **book bag every day please.**

P.E. Swimming and Widecombe Woodlanders:

This term we will aim to have two PE sessions and go swimming. We value outdoor learning a great deal and in addition to children free flowing into our own outdoor area, we plan to get the children out of the classroom for active learning whenever possible, making use of our outdoor space and the outdoor classroom. We will be going for a run each morning and will aim to do a couple of yoga sessions in class each week. Please also ensure warm, waterproof coats are in school each day and a pair of wellies when we have really wet days so we can get out and about.

Remember to name **EVERYTHING**. Woodland school sessions are starting on school grounds for the first week, on Wednesday mornings. You will receive a letter with more information about this. Swimming will be on Tuesday afternoons. Any changes will be on the weekly newsletter or emailed out to you. We also

We are looking forward to working in partnership with you over the coming year. We know that especially for new children and parents, school can sometimes be overwhelming but please feel free to come and see us if you ever have any concerns or questions. We will always do whatever we can to help and advise. If your child catches the bus you can contact school via phone, e mail or write us a note. We do try not to bombard you with too much information but please do check book bags daily. The school weekly newsletter is published every Friday so if you only read one thing each week make sure it is that. Make sure we have your e mail address so we can send it to you. We also have a school Facebook page and a Friends of school page which will update you with information. Remember Anna Perry is the special educational needs co-ordinator (SENCO) if you have any queries or concerns about your child please don't hesitate to see her.

Thank you for your support,

Mrs Dawson, Mrs Perry, Claire and Katherine

