

Class Reception

The Bliss Charity School



Term 1



Dear parents/carers,

Welcome – or welcome back – to The Bliss Charity School. We hope you had a relaxing but fun summer, despite the craziness of the ‘new normal’, and you are all feeling ready and eager for a super start to your child’s learning experience at ‘big school!’ It was great seeing you and your child through our ‘virtual home visits’. Hopefully, this will have helped your child be a little more familiar with me before they started school. I am aware that these meetings were a long time ago so if there is something you need to let me know, please don’t hesitate to contact me. However, the sessions this week have definitely given your child a little taste of what ‘big school’ is like and I’m hoping they came home with very positive experiences that they have shared with you. Hopefully, we will explain the first term to you in this newsletter. If you have not yet shared your child’s ‘Getting to know me’ booklet with us, please can this be brought into school as soon as possible.

We are very much looking forward to working with you this year to ensure your children have an amazing learning experience at Bliss.

Mrs. Caller, Mrs. Mercer and Mrs. Griffiths



Term 1 Topic: *I am Special*



We hope you enjoyed sharing our focus book ‘The Way Home for Wolf’ over the holidays. We will be using the follow-up work that the children completed at home to support and develop their communication, language and personal/social skills.

Our first topic is called ‘I am Special’ and where possible each area of the early years curriculum will be linked to this theme. The ‘I am Special’ topic will help the staff in Class R to really get to know your child during this very important ‘settling in’ time. It will concentrate on our village (or where the children live), the children’s homes and their favourite toys. They will also have opportunities to share information about their interests, their likes and dislikes and their immediate and extended families.

During your child’s first term, there will a clear focus on their personal, social and emotional needs. This is always important to us at Bliss but even more so after a long break for many children due to coronavirus. We will endeavour to ensure they are settled and secure in their new environment. The children will have lots of opportunities to play alongside each other and become familiar with the classroom and the adults within it.

Over the course of Term 1, we will be working with your child to form a baseline assessment. These observation-based assessments are then used to create learning experiences, linked with our current and future topics, to develop your child’s knowledge, skills and understanding.

Helping your child at home ...

In our classroom we have a 'Well Done' board to celebrate children's achievements at home. Please feel free to note down special achievements on a post-it note or a small piece of paper and pop it in your child's book bag so we can share and display them. These help your child with their personal, social and emotional development as well as their communication and language skills.

Your child will be able to select a book from our book corner to bring home and share with you. Please communicate this experience in their reading record as this helps us gain a deeper understanding of your child's engagement with books and text.

We will start learning phonic sounds once we have completed our baseline assessments. You will be notified each week about the sounds we will be learning and hopefully your child will be able to share their knowledge of these with you. In addition to learning sounds, we will start handwriting practice using our *Kinetic Letters* scheme. Practice sheets will be sent home with the children to complete and then return to us. We are currently working on how we can share information about the schemes we use in the classroom so that you can help your child at home.

Identifying numerals to at least 10 and counting objects accurately is a key skill that we teach in Class Reception. Please help your child with this at home. This could be done by identifying numbers in the environment, counting everyday objects, playing games and singing number songs, such as 5 currant buns or 10 sizzling sausages!

Class Reception information ...

- PE will be on Monday afternoons. Please could you ensure that your child comes into school wearing their PE kit from Monday 21st September. PE will take place outside so please ensure your child comes in appropriate PE clothing – please see the uniform information on our website or in the pack you received before the summer.
- Thursday will be our outdoor classroom day so please send your child in clothing suitable for the outdoors from Thursday 10th September. Long jeans, joggers or leggings would be suitable. The children do not need to come to school in uniform on this day.
- Please send in a pair of named wellies that can stay at school for your child to use in the sandpit and the outdoor classroom from the beginning of term.
- Due to the children's ages and development, if you feel the need to supply your child with spare underwear etc. please put these into your child's book bag.
- If your child requires any medication, please give this to the office. Any inhalers can be given to Mrs. Mercer or myself.
- School meal information has now been sent to you – please register and select meals for your child. For the weeks commencing 7th September and 14th September (please select a cold option). From week commencing 21st September, Class R's lunches will be at our allocated staggered time so the full menu choice can be used.
- The morning sessions for weeks commencing the 7th September and 14th September begin at 9:00 am and finish at 12:00 pm. The afternoon sessions start at 12:30pm and finish at 3:20pm. From week commencing 21st September, the school day will be 9:00 am until 3:20pm. Please adhere to the drop-off and collection information sent to you by Mr. Carter. Class Reception will be dropped off and collected from the front playground. Please do not come onto the playground and follow our social distancing guidelines.
- Please keep us informed regarding contact details for your child, including collection arrangements. This can either be done through the office or via the Class Reception staff.
- Any communication that we have for you will be put into your child's book bag. Likewise, if there is anything you have for us, please put it in the book bag as we check these on a daily basis.
- We encourage the children to bring in items from home that are linked with our topics. This year, we will be asking the children to bring 'show and share' items in on particular days: Monday = Earth (green) house children; Tuesday = Water (blue) house children; Wednesday = Fire (red) house children; and Thursday = Air (yellow) house children.

If you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to contact either the office or myself.

Mrs. Caller