

AUTUMN TERM IN PINE CLASS



Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, a huge welcome to you all, whether you are a returning parent or a new one we are so pleased to see you and your children! We have been busy preparing and thinking about how we can make sure that you all feel safe and re-assured as we move on-wards after such a tricky time for us all. The staff team have been working on a course over the summer, which focusses on HYGGE. This is a Scandinavian way of seeing the beauty in the simple things and the world around us, and never has this been more needed. Therefore, we have developed our environment to reflect a calm and welcoming feel with nurture at the heart and we do hope the children enjoy being in it.

Our learning for the Autumn Term will focus around celebrations and we will be looking at the various ways in which we celebrate together; birthdays, Harvest, Diwali, November the 5th and Christmas. The children will be involved in thinking about something they would like to celebrate towards the end of the half term!

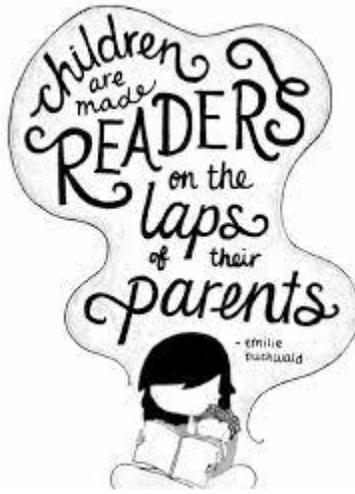
For the new parents we like to refer to our little ones in the following way rather than by using their year group:

Reception – Acorns
Year 1 – Conkers
Year 2 – Chestnuts

Therefore, if your child comes home and tells you that they are an acorn or a conker then they are right! Whilst we are settling in, we would love to make a collection of family photos so that the children can see you in the classroom and we can talk to them about their families. Please send in a photograph, as soon you are able.

Just a few things to note:

- **Reading** –We find that it helps to get into a routine with reading by doing it at the same time each day. Children like a routine, and it will become part of a regular pattern after a while. We will continue to hear the children at every available opportunity in school, but this should not be their only source of reading.



For Reception children (acorns) the priority for the first half term is for them to listen to stories, begin to learn their initial sounds and enjoy playing with rhyme. We will let you know when we feel that your child is ready to begin their journey in reading.

Reading books will only be changed on a MONDAY – we will provide enough material to see your child through a week, but we have to take the books in and place them into quarantine.

- **Book bags** – all that your child needs to bring to school is a book bag and this is only needed on a **Monday** with nothing more in it than their reading book and reading record. Please, **DO NOT** put water bottles into book bags, in our experience they leak and can ruin expensive books.
- **pineclass@morley.norfolk.sch.uk** this is our class email and it will be checked once a day. We are sadly unable to engage with you at the beginning or end of the day; as you will know our priority is the safety of your children and our community. If there is an urgent matter then please ring the school office and a message will be relayed to us. If we need to speak to you, we will contact you via e-mail.
- **PE –Children DO NOT need to bring PE kits to school.** Please ensure that they come to school in their kits on their PE day:
Reception children have Learn, Play, and Grow sessions on a Thursday afternoon so please send them to school in their kit on this day. They will also have PE on a Monday along with the Year 1 children learning ball skills and throwing and catching skills. They might like to wear a tracksuit over the top of their t-shirt and shorts, particularly if it is a colder day. (Best to do this as they can always peel back the layers.)
Year 1 children will have PE on a Monday and a Thursday so please send children in their kits on these days.
- **APRONS** – please could you provide a named apron for art and craft. This can be an old shirt with the arms cut off or an old t-shirt. It needs to be something that is easily put on and will be kept at school on your child's peg
- **Lunches** – children will be eating their lunches within the bubbles – so our children will remain in the Pine classroom. They will have designated MSA's (midday supervisors) for the lunch hour as normal. Please send children with food that they are able to open on their own, our staff are not permitted to help children open packets/cartons or straws as part of protecting themselves, so it is important that your child is able to open everything on their own. We thank you for your understanding.
- **Water bottles** – children will need a water bottle each day in school, as we are unable to offer cups or spares. Water only in bottles please, squash or juice is not permitted. Please make sure that it is spill proof – thank you.
- **Outdoor learning/forest schools** - as part of our rich and nurturing curriculum, we will be heading to the woods for learning outdoors. This will be regularly and in all weathers. Please ensure that your child has a pair of wellies and a waterproof all in one at school – we do not hold spares. (We will keep them with us and send them home at half terms.)



- **Colder weather** - As the weather gets colder please do provide your child with suitable **NAMED** clothing. It can be very cold at playtimes and lunchtimes and the expectation is for them to be outside as part of their provision (even more so now than ever.) We would suggest a hat and gloves as they do feel the cold.
The doors and windows will be open all year round.
- **Continuing Professional Development** – Mrs Ketley is also our SENCO (Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator) and will be completing her National SENCO Award this year. This is a compulsory accreditation, which all SENCOs must hold. This means that for 2 days a month she will be out of school. If these days fall on a Weds-Fri then a well-known and trusted supply teacher will use for cover. The dates for these days are as follows: 1st/2nd Oct, 4th/5th Nov, 3rd/4th Dec, 28th/29th Jan, 10th/11th March, 6th/7th May, 22nd/23rd June.
- **VALUE FOR LIFE** – As a Church of England school, we follow the values for life, and this term it is Creativity. So please do take every opportunity to chat to your child about this as we will be reflecting on being creative as part of Collective Worship and as part of daily school life.

'LEARN TOGETHER, WORK TOGETHER, GROW TOGETHER'

With the love of God, we will create a learning environment where high expectations and the teaching of Christian values ensure that everyone is cared for, valued, encouraged and able to achieve their full potential.

Our priority is always our children, and we know that those parents who become partners in learning truly improve outcomes for their little ones. When parents are involved children achieve more, they are happier, they develop greater self-esteem and demonstrate good behaviour, so please do get involved as it is the most wonderful time in their lives and it whizzes by in a flash!

As always, if you have any questions or queries then please do email us:
pine@morley.norfolk.sch.uk as we are no longer able to chat to you at length.

Many thanks,

Kate Easter, Laura Ketley and Louise Motteram