



April 2016

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to you and your children after the Easter break. The Early Years team would like to begin by thanking you for your invaluable support throughout the last two terms. The children have continued to make fantastic progress and we are so very proud of their achievements to date. We cannot believe that we are in the final term of your children's time in Reception. Over the next term we will be working hard with our Key Stage One colleagues to prepare you and your children for the transition into Year One. We greatly appreciate all you do at home to support us with our work in the classroom.

During this half of the Summer Term our topic focus is 'Transport' following on from our visit to The Epping and Ongar railway station. We will be focusing on lots of stories relating to transport. Our first book to be explored includes 'If I built a car...' by Chris Van Dusen. If you have anything at home relating to this topic, then please encourage your child to bring it in for the investigation area.

Please find attached our medium term planning, which shows you in greater detail the learning that we will be focusing on this half term. We hope this information will enable you to discuss and reinforce with your child what we are teaching in school.

After half term our new topic will be 'Under the Sea and the Seaside'. We are planning a WOW day linked to theme and this will take place in June.

We are constantly looking at different ways to engage the children in their learning and have recently set up a mud kitchen in our garden area. If you have any old/spare pots, pans and cooking utensils that you wish to donate, then these would be greatly received.

Please ensure that if your child is riding a bike or scooter to school, that they dismount before entering the school site (this includes the pathway leading to the Nursery and Reception classrooms).

We are always busy creating things in busy time using junk modelling resources. Please could you send in any egg boxes, cardboard boxes, milk cartons, bottle lids, yoghurt pots and kitchen roll tubes (not toilet rolls) that you may have at home, so that we can continue to build our wonderful constructions!

Please encourage your child not to bring in small toys/key rings into school from home. The children are getting very upset when small objects go missing. One key ring that is securely attached to your child's book bag is fine. If toys are brought into school these will be taken off your child and kept in the teacher's cupboard until the end of the day.

If you feel you have time to come in and help in the classroom, at some point during the week, then please come and speak to one of us. We most need help in the morning to support groups during our Literacy and Numeracy sessions.

As a team we are very much looking forward to working with you and your child over this final term. We hope to not only prepare the children for the transition into Year One, but continue to foster a love of learning which will remain with them as they continue to grow and develop.

Yours sincerely

The Early Years Team