



Autumn Term 1 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the new academic year and your new class **Robins.**

Our year begins with '**settling in**' - an important time for your child to explore, find their way around their new environment and start to embrace the whole new school experience.

This initial few weeks is a very important time for myself and my TA'S to get to know your children and build relationships with them. I want them all to feel happy, safe and secure from day one. Initially my main focus is to find out about what they enjoy doing, their interests, how they like to learn and support them in settling into reception class. This does not mean we won't be learning or exploring - believe me, this starts the first day!



Mrs Clutterham - Class Teacher
Mrs Webb - Robins Lead TA
Mrs Harper- Rowe - TA (4 days)

On Tuesday afternoon, I have my allocated planning/management time. Mrs Webb will lead the afternoon session on this day with additional support of another TA.

What do I need to bring to school?

PE will be on a Thursday so please ensure their PE bag is in School by next Thursday (week 2) The set of muddy clothes and wellies can be brought in next week.

Each child will need a named water bottle to be kept at school, we will replenish and wash these. Children who were in Dormice may already have one in school so please check with one of the team.



One photograph of their family to be used for a display in the classroom.



One ceramic mug of their choice to be used for snack times this can be plain or have a character or name on whichever they prefer. The mugs will stay at School for the year.

Communication

Mrs Webb will be in the playground with a clipboard each morning to take any messages from parents. You will also be able to message me on class dojo when this is set up and you can email me on hclutterham@glemsfordprimaryacademy.co.uk at anytime.

Class dojo –each child will bring home an online sign-up sheet this week. We use Class dojo as a reward system within the school both for each child and the class as a whole. I will also keep you updated with messages and photographs alongside Tapestry the online Learning journey. Check Tapestry/Class dojo regularly for updates on what we have been up to and please do contribute by making comments and adding photographs as this supports us working in partnership with you.

School Dinners & Packed lunch

If your child is having school dinners please read the menu with them on the morning so they are aware of what the lunch is going to be. They will need to tell us when they come into school if they are having packed lunch or school dinners. Please note school dinners are free this year. If you require a menu please collect one from the main office.

Timetable	8:50-11:45	11:45-1pm	1-1:10pm	1:10-3:15
Monday	Whole School Assembly Phonics/Maths Explore & Learn	Lunch	Wellbeing & Mindfulness	Explore & Learn
Tuesday	Phonics/Maths Explore & Learn	Lunch	Wellbeing & Mindfulness	Explore & Learn
Wednesday	Phonics/Maths Explore & Learn	Lunch	Wellbeing & Mindfulness	Explore & Learn
Thursday	Phonics/Maths Explore & Learn PE	Lunch	Wellbeing & Mindfulness	Explore & Learn
Friday	Phonics/Maths Explore & Learn Forest Adventures	Lunch	Wellbeing & Mindfulness	Explore & Learn Forest Adventures

Please note within Robins we have a flexible timetable the aim being that we can continue to follow child's interests 'in the moment' both in the outdoor and indoor classrooms supporting the EYFS curriculum.

In Reception we do not have formal homework – however to prepare them your child will start to bring home a picture book to share with you. This starts to introduce the concept of bringing a reading book home and build on what you do at home sharing stories. As we progress with our phonics/numbers the children will bring cards or activities to share with

you. Your child may also bring a library book home. There is no pressure with these activities we want them to be fun and enable shared learning between home and School. This is how your child will learn best and build those important foundations - working and learning together.

Purple Mash & Literacy Planet – The children will be able access some of the programmes we use at school. The log in details will be added to the reading diaries. There are lots of fun games and activities the children can explore which support learning skills.

Your child will bring home a 'Robins Home folder' which needs to come to school every day. These will be sent home in week 2. Within this folder we may send home letters/notes so please ensure you check these.

There will be a formal opportunity once a term to discuss your child's progress at parent partnership meetings however any questions or worries at any time please do contact and arrange to see me.

Additional notes:

Children who attend part time this term are to be collected at the side gate of the EYFS playground. A member of Robins staff will unlock the gate at 1:00pm.

We will bring the children to the main playground at the end of the day so please wait in the playground and a child will go home one at a time from the line.

PE will be on a Thursday morning this term and we will be doing Gymnastics. We will be having Coach Jordan. Please note children are not allowed to wear earrings for PE. On Fridays, we will be doing activities in the forest area at School either am/pm or both! So the muddy clothes are likely to come home on Friday.

Cooking Activities - voluntary donations suggested £10 for the year. Please send in an envelope to Mrs Clutterham in your child's book bag if you would like to make a voluntary contribution.

The chickens will be back shortly from their holidays! We are purchasing them a new larger coop and run which is kindly being funded by FOGS (our PTA) so await the girls will be back soon. We will be selling eggs this term £1 a box as they are laying 4 a day now to add to the chicken feed fund.

Please don't be surprised that your child may start to feel extra tired and emotional during this first term. It is quite normal for this to happen as they adjust to coming full time and the new routines of school. Please continue to support them by being positive about the whole experience as this really helps.

Top tip: Lots of lovely sleep to rest and refresh the mind – It's a busy life as a Robin - tweet tweet!

I am very excited about my year together with your children. I hope you feel reassured your little ones are in safe hands.

Let the fun begin 'Rockin Robins' Mrs Clutterham
EYFS Lead & Reception Teacher Art & DT Lead