Ash Class Newsletter
Autumn Term 2026

Sutton Bonington Primary School

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you have all had a great summer and that your child has enjoyed their first few days at school. All the staff have enjoyed meeting you and we would like to say how pleased we are with how well the children have settled into the new routines of school.

Staff in Year R

We are very lucky to have Mrs Phipp (Teaching Assistant) working in Class all week. On Thursday afternoons I have time out of the classroom for planning, preparation and assessment (PPA). During this time children will instead be taught by Mrs Hopkin who is an experienced HLTA. The children are already familiar with all our classroom adults.

Topic

Our topic for the first few weeks of term will be 'Where do we live?'. Children will be getting to know each other and will explore our class environment and school grounds so that they feel settled and happy in their new surroundings. We will explore the different features of Sutton Bonington and special places within England. In the first few weeks we will also be observing your child as they engage in a variety of activities in different contexts, so that we can assess where they are at in their learning and development. This will then help us to plan their next steps. We will also be carrying out the official government Reception Baseline Assessments (further details about this have been sent to you along with this letter).

Things to Remember

The children should be dropped off and collected outside on our Reception playground. Staff will be available from 8.40 am, in case you need to pass on any messages. If anyone else will be picking up your child, please let a member of staff know in the morning or call/email the office.

Children in Reception and Key Stage 1 receive a free fruit snack each day. This is usually enough to keep children going until lunch but if you believe they may need something additional for the afternoon, then please make sure this is a small healthy snack (e.g. piece of fruit, vegetable, dried fruit or plain rice cake). Please do not send children with biscuits, chocolate, crisps or sweets. We are a **nut allergy friendly** school so please ensure you avoid sending in any products containing nuts. Any snack the children bring in needs to be put in their tray as one of their morning jobs. They also need to put their water bottles in the tray provided so that they can be easily accessed. Please can we ask that they only contain water rather than juice and ensure these are also named. Children are also encouraged to put their book bag in the crate provided.

Children under 5 receive free milk through the 'Cool milk' scheme. From their 5th birthday, children may no longer be eligible for free milk and you will need to make a payment a few weeks before their birthday in order for them to continue to receive it. You will need to visit https://www.coolmilk.com/parents/ to do this. If your child drinks a milk alternative, please send them in with it on a Monday with enough for the week if possible.

PE Days

This term, we will be doing P.E on a Friday. Please can children bring their PE kit in a clearly labelled bag on an additional day once they have settled in. This is a slightly different arrangement to the rest of school as practising the skills of dressing themselves is part of the EYFS curriculum.

Reading Books

At school we follow the Revised Letters and Sounds 'Little Wandle' phonics scheme. Your child will be bringing home two different books in the coming weeks. The book sent home on Friday is the reading for pleasure/sharing book. The other book will be in line with our phonics scheme and matched to your child's reading level. If your child is reading it with little help, please don't worry that it's too easy as we want your child to develop fluency and confidence when reading. Our aim is for each child to read twice in a group per week with an adult whilst at school. We call these reading practice sessions and it is where children will focus on the skills of decoding, expression and comprehension. As mentioned in the reading diary, this book along with their reading for pleasure book will be changed on Fridays. We try our best to ensure that each reading practice session happens however there may be occasions when they may miss a session with an adult at school, particularly when there are special events going on within school. Reading regularly with your child is invaluable. Please ensure that they bring their yellow reading diary everyday so that we can record in their diaries how they have got on in their reading practice sessions during the week. We also need them to bring their book bag every day, in case there are any letters we need to send home.

There will be an opportunity for you to come into school and hear more about the Little Wandle phonics scheme later in the term and learn how it is structured and what a phonics session may look like to your child. We will also be able to share with you some ideas about how you can support your child at home. More information to follow.

Tapestry Online Journal App

You will shortly receive an activation email from Tapestry (please check your junk mailbox as it can sometimes appear here) which will enable you to set up your account to be able to use this home/school communication system. We can only send you details on activating your account once we have received your completed Tapestry permissions form. Please ask the office for this form if you don't think you have completed it yet. We will use Tapestry to occasionally send you photos of some of your child's 'wow' moments at school which you can view and also comment upon. You can also upload photos linked to their completed homework challenges (More details to follow next week)

Values

This term we will be focusing on what it means to belong. We will cover this through assemblies, PSHE lessons and through everyday aspects of school life. Please ask your child how they have been able to show respect and kindness at school and at home.



If you have any questions or worries, please do not hesitate to come and speak to me in school.

Many Thanks,

Miss Carte and Mrs Phipp,