

Dear Parents,

We are very pleased to welcome all the new children and parents to Beech class and West Tytherley School. I hope you and your child had an exciting and restful summer. I have loved welcoming your child into school this week. I hope they have enjoyed their mornings in class and are beginning to settle into the school routine.

Our focus this term will be getting to know each other, the school and settling into school routines. This half term topic will be 'What makes me special?' We will be talking about our emotions, our differences, our strengths, our interests, our families and how we can keep healthy and strong.

The children will be learning through investigating the class environment and by engaging in specific challenges to move their knowledge and understanding forward. There will be group activities and whole class teaching time as well as stories, songs and games.

Book Bags - We ask that children do not bring toys into school but they can put a small key ring on their book bag to help them recognise their own bag. Please can book bags come into school every day. Letters and correspondence from the school office will be placed inside. Please remove these and return any forms inside or hand into the office or to a member of staff.

Snacks and drinks - The school will provide fruit, water and milk, if requested, for your child. Please can your child bring a named water bottle every day.

House points – House points can be earned for following the school's expectations, being brave, trying new things, completing an individual target or being kind and helpful.

PE Kit - Children should keep their PE Kit in school. Kit will be sent home at the end of each half term for a wash.

Outdoor Learning – The children will be taking their learning outdoors every day. Please make sure they always bring outer clothes suitable for the weather (be it coats and warm hats or wearing sunscreen and sun hats). On a Wednesday afternoon, they will also take part in Forest School activities on the school grounds and will need wellies and a change of clothes that they can wear which you don't mind get muddy!

Tapestry – This is up and running. You should have got an activating email sent to you. Please let me know if you have not received it. Please add any 'wow' moments from home to Tapestry and we will share these in school. A wow moment is when a child reaches a particular milestone in their development e.g. using a knife and fork, riding a bike, sharing with a sibling etc.

Homework – Children will be asked to revise the sounds and tricky words they have been learning in class. This information will come home every Friday. Please also practise recognising numbers 1-5.

Reading – When they are ready, the children will start to receive school reading books. Please read this book 3 times, exploring the pictures together and sharing ideas. At the front of the book there is guidance on the activities and questions you can ask. These reading sessions should be recorded in their reading diary with your comments on how your child enjoyed the book. Your child will come home with a sharing library book of their choice. This book is read by you, to your child. These books will be changed as regularly as you have shared them at home (Please remove anything else from the book bag daily e.g. artwork, paintings and treasures made in school).

I hope your child enjoys their first term in school and that you will enjoy hearing about what we get up to in class. Try looking through the photos on Tapestry or in the school newsletter to encourage your child to talk about their exciting learning opportunities.

I look forward to working with you. If you have any questions or concerns, please do catch me after school or arrange an appointment with the office.

Kind regards,

Mrs Archer