



## Welcome to Ash Class!



Dear parents/carers,

We hope you have had a lovely summer and we are sure you are now ready to start the new school year. We understand that you may feel a little anxious about restarting after a very unsettling and unexpected ending to the school year, but please let us assure you that we feel more than ready to have our wonderful pupils back! There are a few changes that we have put in place to ensure our environment stays 'a safe place' for all pupils and staff members, which we will go through in this letter.

Firstly, we would like to welcome our new reception children and families! We are extremely excited to welcome you to our school and know that our year 1's will be more than happy to help you to settle into your new class. The Reception child's 'Rainbow Buddies' will still be around to support you throughout your first year, however this first term it will be from a distance.

We have a very full and exciting curriculum this term. Our Learning Challenge Curriculum question this term will be 'How are tigers not like humans?' We will be exploring a range of texts and looking at similarities and differences of the physical geography of habitats. Please refer to our curriculum web for more detail. This will be posted on our school website class page for future reference.

This letter will give you lots more information about the learning and routines in Ash class, but please don't hesitate to come and see us after school if you have any questions or queries.

### Keeping Safe

- Children will be now in class bubbles; therefore, children will stay with the same children and adult staff throughout their day. There will be no mixing of bubbles.
- Children will have staggered arrival times. Ash class will start at **8.40am** and finish at **3.10pm** (reception pupils have alternative times for their transition week only). We will ask you to drop off your child/children at the side entrance gate. A member of staff will be there to greet your child and assist with any queries. Due to the pandemic we do ask parents and carers to not enter the learning outdoor area and to not wait around in the playground area. During the first week of transition, reception children can have their parents/carers assist them into the learning outdoor area when they arrive as we can provide safe distancing for a small number of adults.
- On arrival into the classroom, all pupils will be asked to wash their hands. We will regularly wash hands throughout the day to reduce a risk of transmission. If your pupil has any known allergies or irritations to soap products please come and speak to us.
- The classroom has been set up to provide children with a safe space to learn in and they will receive their own resources packs. Resources which are shared within our bubble will be routinely cleaned. Reading books or equipment that gets sent home, will be cleaned and placed in quarantine before being used again.

- Ash class will have their lunches in their class bubble. However Reception pupils will have their lunch within the classroom and Year Ones will be in the school hall. This is to provide additional spacing for children and for them to be able to be monitored more carefully.

**We would like you to be mindful of allergies within the class, therefore if you are providing any school lunches from home, please ensure that these do not contain nuts. A separate letter with allergy information has also been sent.**

### **Our week**

- **PE:** The children will be taking part in PE on a Thursday afternoon. Children can come into school wearing their PE kit. PE shorts can be placed in their PE bag for days when PE is indoors. Children will also take part in daily physical activities, which are short 30 minutes sessions. Pupils will not need to get changed for this.
- **Reading:** We encourage you to read with, listen to or read to your child each night. However, your children will only change their reading book twice a week. Books will be collected in on a **Monday** and new books issued on a Tuesday; books will then be collected in on a **Thursday** and a new book issued on a Friday for the weekend. All children will be given two reading books. One directly linking to their phonics input at school and a second book from our 'Rainbow Reads'. These books are for pleasure! They are to encourage children to build on their fluency and their love of reading. On the two evenings (Monday and Thursday) where the children will not have a physical book, they will be able to access an online book from **Bug Club**. This links to their very own online library of phonics e-books. We will organise a parent workshop to explain in more detail how to access this and its benefits for early readers.  
**Pupils will not receive their reading books until the second week and this will be kept at home. More information will be provided when we send the reading diaries home.**
- **Spellings:** Only the **Year Ones** will have a spelling test once a week (Monday) focusing on high frequency words, tricky words and common spelling patterns. Your child will be given a spelling book with a few spellings to learn each week. We will also add the term's overview of spellings onto the school's website class page for future reference.
- **Homework:** Homework will start after **October half term** once the children are settled into their routine. Year Ones will have a short numeracy or English task flowing on from their week's learning. Reception pupils will have a selection of flashcards to practise reading or playing games with, as well as a pick and choose homework grid.
- **Buddy Show and Tell:** We will have show and tell on a **Friday**. Usually this would be on a rota basis to ensure that everyone has a chance to share something with the class. However, as we are limiting what children are bringing in and out of the classroom for the time being, this will now be a speaking and listening activity, where your child can share any news with their class buddy. You may want to practise what your child will say before the day.
- **Teachers:** The children will be taught by Mrs Rimmer Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday and Mrs Forte will teach the class on Thursday and Friday. Mrs Rimmer

will be working on a Thursday but focusing on group work. We are also very lucky to have Ms Cheung supporting the children each day in class as well.

### **General reminders and routines**

- Packed lunches should be placed in the Ash class lunch box, situated by the entrance gate.
- Clothing such as cardigans, jumpers and even shoes **MUST BE CLEARLY LABELLED.**
- The children will need to have their own water bottle to keep in class, which they can access throughout the day. Please make sure your child's name is written clearly on their water bottle.
- The children are welcome into class from 8:40, where there will be activities for them to do. I would encourage you to just drop your child off so that they can use this time to concentrate on their learning and our school day can start promptly.
- At 8:50 am the register will be taken and any arrivals after will be recorded as late.
- If you have a particular issue you would like to discuss, please request a phone call via the school office. Where necessary, we can also arrange to meet parents after school once all pupils have left the building. Visitors will be asked to wear face masks in the building.

### **Volunteers**

We will be going on many trips and excursions throughout the year and will be looking for volunteers to help us. If you are happy to assist please let us know your availability in advance. We also would be grateful for any volunteers to help listen to readers in the afternoons. However, if you do decide to volunteer you will need to complete a DBS form which the office can help you with. We will not be seeking any volunteers in the immediate future due to the COVID-19 arrangements.



### **Key dates for Autumn Term**

**Google Classroom Reading workshop:** Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> September R - 6pm Y1 – 7pm (TBC)

**Google Math's workshop:** Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> October R- 6pm Y1 – 7pm (TBC)

Parent consultations: online consultations Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September and Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2020 (TBC)

Local Welly Walk: R – 1<sup>st</sup> October Year 1 – 8<sup>th</sup> October (More information to follow)

We look forward to working with you and your child this year.

Kind regards

Mrs Rimmer and Mrs Forte