

Dear Panda and Hippo Class children, parents, and carers,

Welcome to Redfield! We can't wait to see you all on your first day in Reception, we will have lots of fun activities to do together.

In this first newsletter, we aim to give you some key information regarding your child's first term with us, as well as information that will continue to be relevant throughout the year. Please look at Class Dojo regularly as important information is communicated in this way. If you need any help, setting up your account or accessing any information, please let us know! You will all receive a document to activate your child's account soon.

Important dates

First day – 7th September

First full day – 14th September

SLT welcome meeting- 10th September 9.00am

Parent's phonics information session – 28th September 3:30 pm

Parents' evening – 19th and 21st October

Learning this term

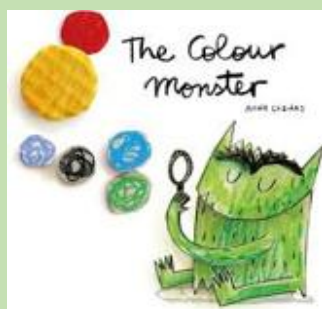
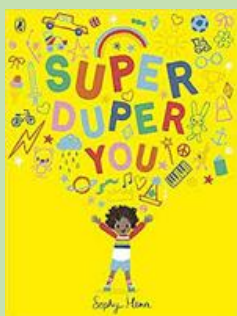
This term is all about making the children feel welcome and settled to school. We will be focussing on getting to know them and ensuring they feel safe and happy in their new environment.

Our key question this term is '**Who am I?**' which gives us the opportunity to get to know each other and the things that make us similar and different. We will be exploring families, friends, school, feelings, and communities. As part of this topic, we will be talking about our families and our homes. Please could you send in a photograph of your child with their family for us to discuss as a class. Either a printed copy or an emailed version to our main office.

The over-arching aim for this first term is to ensure every child is settled and happy in school, which will enable them to learn and make progress in all areas. The school day provides children with lots of opportunities to learn through collaborative play, alongside focused whole-class and small-group teaching of key knowledge and skills. The adults in Reception also love getting 'stuck in' to the play alongside the children, and lots of new learning will happen in this way.

During this first term, children will also take part in a statutory Reception Baseline Assessment – more detail about this is provided in the attached leaflet from the Department for Education.

We will be looking at a range of books over the term including:



(Please see our topic web on the school website for more information).

Things to bring in each day in Reception

Please ensure that your child brings the following to school every day:

- **School book bag**, containing reading book, reading record and phonics sounds to practice with your child
- A **named water bottle** (water only, not squash or fizzy drinks)
- Named **waterproof coat**.
- Named **wellies**
- It would also be useful if you could provide a **spare set of clothes** (including underwear) in case of any accidents, in a plastic bag, which can be stored safely in the classroom.

*If your child requires any **regular medication, or has an inhaler or epi-pen**, this needs to be passed to the school office, who will ask you to complete a medical form and to provide us with more detail about this, including a care plan where necessary

PE

Our PE days are Wednesday. Please, ensure children come to school on those days wearing clothing and suitable footwear.

Adults in the class

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Hippo class				
Laura	Hannah S	Laura am Hannah P pm	Laura	Laura
Damian	Damian	Damian	Damian	Damian
Panda class				
Sara	Sara	Gemma W am Gemma B pm	Sara	Sara
Becks	Becks	Becks	Becks	Becks

Reading

We will soon begin to send home reading books for you to share at home with your child. The first of these books will have no words, so that the children focus on developing their understanding of how to handle books and how to enjoy looking at the pictures – you can encourage them to use these images to 'tell' the story and to talk about what they can see.

As we teach phonics, we will send home reading books that are decodable – this means children should be able to use their emerging phonics knowledge to break down the words into individual sounds and blend these back together.

Reading books will be changed every week and the day will vary depending on the reading group your child is in, but please ensure your child brings their reading book into school in their book bag every day as adults in school love to hear your child read.

What to wear

As you are aware, we are a non-uniformed school. Please ensure your child wears appropriate clothing and footwear for their learning. We will of course make sure your child is comfortable and will offer a change of clothes if they are completely drenched from measuring water or making mud pies!



Communication

- Class Dojo is the easiest way to contact us. We aim to reply to messages within 2 working days.
- **Please don't use Class Dojo for emergency messages as we cannot check them while teaching or in meetings. Continue to call the office for emergency messages.**
- We are happy to catch up for an informal chat at drop off and pick up times and we can arrange a meeting for longer conversations.
- We will send out all school messages through Class Dojo, so please let us know as soon as possible if you are having trouble accessing your account. We will also update Class Dojo with news about our learning in class and photos of the children's work.

Lunch

A gentle reminder to please book your child's lunch on Arbor at least 24 hours in advance if you would like them to have a hot meal. Unfortunately, only the sandwich option can be ordered on the day.

If you have any questions or need support with the booking process, please let us know—we are happy to help.

We hope this letter contains useful information for you; please don't hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions or concerns, or if there is something specific to your child that you feel we should know.

Let's have a wonderful first term in school!!

Sara, Laura, Becks and Damian