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 Executive Head Teacher: Mrs Victoria Woods

Squirrels Class Newsletter – Summer Term 2 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you all have had a great half term and are looking forward to **Summer Term 2**.

We will begin our term with the opportunity to explore our new castle role play area and there may well be a visit from a mythical creature to watch out for...

Curriculum – ‘Castles, Knights and Dragons’

This term, In English, our key texts are ‘The Knight and the Dragon’ by Tomie DePaola and ‘Dragon Post’ by Emma Yarlett. We will explore the stories through book talk, drama, storytelling and writing and will use them as a prompt for non-fiction writing. ‘The Knight and the Dragon’ gives lots of opportunities for caption writing and ‘Dragon Post’ for reading and writing letters. In History we will be finding out about the key features of castles and the roles of the people who lived in them. In Design and Technology, the children will be exploring sliders and levers and will be designing their own mechanisms to make moving pictures. In Computing, the Year One pupils will use the Chromebooks to develop their word processing skills.

For further information and details about our learning this term, please read our COG document which is available on our class page on the website.

Date Reminders:

- Friday 5th June – Squirrel Class Worship 2.45 p.m.
- Thursday 18th June – Sports Day (children to come to school in their PE kits)
- Thursday 2nd July – Family Picnic 2.30 – 4.00 p.m.

Class rewards

Squirrels ‘stars in the jar’ rewards

180 stars	210 stars
Party games	Ice-creams and water play

Last term Squirrels enjoyed their 150 ‘stars in the jar’ reward of wearing their own clothes for the day.

In addition to ‘stars in the jar’, the children can also, as individuals, earn house points. At the end of each half term, the house with the most points is rewarded with a whole house treat, such as extra OPAL play.

Children are praised and rewarded for demonstrating our vision in action and for working hard on their learning journey.

Preparation for learning

Children are required to have their reading records, RWI books and their class library book in their book bag **every day**. Home toys are not permitted. Your assistance ensuring, they are ‘Squirrels class ready’ each day alongside

Love, Compassion and Courage

supporting daily reading, phonics, and weekly homework is gratefully appreciated. Home support really does help to ensure your child's learning blooms across the curriculum.

Reading

We want to create a culture that values and supports reading for pleasure and we will commit to the following:

- adults reading aloud regularly
- informal book talk, including recommendations from peers and adults
- encouraging library use, including the local public library
- providing time to read
- sociable reading environments

Regular reading makes a real difference to not only to a child's reading progression but to their progress across the whole curriculum.

Each week, children select and borrow a Squirrels class library picture book. This 'free choice' book is not one that your child can read independently – it is for you to share with them, reading it together. Regularly sharing books at home with your children is a great way to cover a wide range of authors and genres and extends their understanding and use of a wider range of vocabulary.

The children learn sounds in their daily RWI Phonics sessions. Each night their reading folders will be sent home. They contain either practice sounds, green words and red word cards or fully decodable reading books at a developmentally appropriate level for them. QR codes for RWI video links will also be sent home. Practising your child's phonics sounds and listening to your child RWI texts daily consolidates their blending, fluency and comprehension skills.

Homework

Homework is sent home on a **Thursday**. It needs to be completed, and homework books returned to school on the following **Tuesday**. Our homework enables all pupils to read regularly, practise and recall their phonics and Mastering Number learning and complete a weekly piece linked to our project. We have created a grid of project-based activities for the children to select one from each week. We cannot wait to see what the children create and bring in to share with the class. Good pieces of homework and great effort will be rewarded through the school reward systems.

Independent dressing

We encourage independent dressing and undressing so please support this at home by enabling your child to practise putting on and taking off their own clothing and outerwear as much as possible. The children change between named shoes and named wellies several times each day. Velcro fastenings are ideal, but if your child's shoes do have laces or buckles, you will need to practise how these work at home to enable your child to be independent when changing at school.

We/they will change their clothes if they have become excessively wet or muddy during outdoor learning or if they have a toileting accident. If for any reason your child is sent home wearing borrowed Squirrels *spare school* clothes, *please* wash and *return* these to school as soon as possible.

Essential Outdoor Clothing

We play outside in all weathers: Outdoor Learning and Play (OPAL) happens every break time, we access the Squirrels' garden mud kitchen, sandpit and water toys and we participate in Forest School each week. Your child will need:

- a waterproof coat
- wellies
- waterproof trousers/all-in-one suit (if these get particularly muddy/wet, we will send them home for a wash. Please return them to school on the following **Monday**.)
- sunhat
- suncream

Please ensure each of these is named! Thank you.

On Forest School days (Fridays) the children will need to come to school in full school uniform and bring a separate named carrier bag containing a long-sleeved top and trousers/leggings. They will independently change into these and their wellies before Forest School. As the weather gets warmer, children will continue to need clothes that cover their arms and legs.

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PE Kit

This term our PE sessions are on **Tuesdays** (Year R and 1) and **Thursdays** (outdoor PE for Year 1 only).

For Health and Safety reasons, your child needs to have their **full** change of **PE kit** in school **all week**: tracksuit trousers and top, shorts, house t-shirt and trainers. Children are not permitted to borrow PE kits from other children.

PE kits should be brought into school every Monday in a drawstring bag and will be sent home on Thursdays to be washed ready for the following week.

Please note long hair needs to be tied up and pupils are not allowed to take part in PE lessons whilst wearing earrings (unless they have been pierced within the last six weeks in which case they are permitted to tape them up until six weeks has passed.) **Staff are not permitted to assist pupils with the removal or insertion of earrings.** If pupils are not able to manage earrings independently, they should not wear them to school on days when PE is timetabled to take place but remove them, with assistance, at home.

Reminders

- **Water Bottles** – please make sure children have a **named water bottle** with them **every day** (separate from any drink in their lunch box) as this allows them to access water as and when they require it. To improve the oral health of children, only water is permitted in class. If your child brings in a bottle filled with something other than water, we will provide them with a cup so that they can access water during the day.
- **Snacks** – Children may bring in a **healthy snack** for mid-morning break. Suitable choices include fruit, cheese, yogurt and vegetable sticks. Do let us know if your child has any food allergies or intolerances.
- **Absence and sickness** – please let the office know if your child is not attending because they are ill. Also please note that Health Protection Agency guidance states that children should not return to school for 48 hours after the last episode of either sickness or diarrhoea.
- **Birthdays** - To support your child's dental health, we ask that you do not bring in sweet treats. Instead, if you would like to, you are welcome to donate a book for Squirrels to share and enjoy. This could be a picture book, information book, collection of poems or a favourite story.

My Child at School (MCAS)

We are now using the My Child at School App to send information to you and to allow you to easily make online payments. If you have not done so already, please sign up by visiting the following website: <https://www.mychildatschool.com/MCAS/MCSParentLogin> School code: 15126

Contact

Should you need to contact us about any matters arising, you may email direct using the following address: squirrels@wroxtonprimary.co.uk

Please be aware that any messages sent may not be seen until later in the school day or after school as we may be busy with classroom duties and teaching earlier in the day. In all cases we will endeavour to reply to you within 2 working days. Obviously if the matter is more urgent, for example about attendance or changes to the routine of collecting your child, then you should contact the school office.

We look forward to working with you and helping your children achieve our school vision of “Aspiring to be our best selves, with Love, Compassion and Courage.”

Kind Regards,
The Squirrel Team