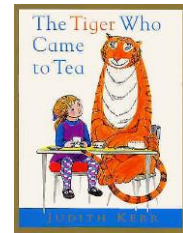


September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

A big welcome to those of you who are new to Denton and welcome back to those families that have just joined us. We have had a lovely few days as the children have been busy playing with each other and making new friends. They have been excitedly exploring the classroom and telling us all about their summer. Mrs Holmes and I are excited for another fun year in Maple Class and we are very pleased that Mrs Burrows will be joining our team.

This term our topic is 'All About Me' which is based on the book 'The Tiger Who Came to Tea' by Judith Kerr. We will learn to make predictions and start to identify the beginning, middle and end of stories. We will extend our vocabulary by using adjectives to describe. We will learn about ourselves and our families, and identify similarities and differences between us and our friends. We will find out about how our lives are similar and different to those of our grandparents and who in our community can help us. There will be many opportunities for artwork as we will be painting portraits and designing houses using junk modelling amongst other activities. We will also be cooking and the children will have challenges to complete in each area, which will link to our topic. We will be celebrating Grandparents' Day on Friday 29th September (more information to follow) and we will be organising a visit to Yardley Hastings Primary School to celebrate the end of our topic.



Reception will have daily phonics lessons using the Jolly Phonics scheme. We will learn a new sound each day and will learn to use these to read and write words and short captions so the children will be introduced to finger spaces. We will also focus on forming each letter correctly. We will have small group guided reading sessions twice a week and the children will read individually once a week. They will also be expected to complete a daily writing challenge.

Nursery will have a daily 'Talking Time' session. This session will focus on speaking and listening skills. The children will have the opportunity to talk but also to listen to different sounds by going on listening walks. They will listen to and discuss stories and will have many opportunities to hold books and become familiar with key book skills such as turning pages and looking from left to right. They will be encouraged to mark make and give meanings to these.

In Maths, Reception will be learning to recognise, describe, continue and create repeating patterns. They will then learn about the numbers to 5. They will practise counting using 1:1 correspondence and will match numerals to the correct amount. They will start to recall one more and one less facts and explore the composition of numbers. They will practise writing numbers, showing finger numbers and subitising. Linked to our topic, they will explore 2D shapes by building houses and will use the language of capacity to create drinks for the tiger.

Nursery children will start their maths learning by identifying different colours in the environment. They will then focus on matching objects based on different attributes e.g. finding buttons that are round and red, matching lego towers. This will include work on patterns and shapes. They will use the vocabulary of same, matching and different. They will then learn to sort objects based on size and use the correct vocabulary.

More information about our daily routine and curriculum will be shared at the Curriculum Information Evening on Wednesday 11th October at 6:30pm which is for both Reception and Nursery parents.



Useful Information:

- Muddles, our class bear, will go home with a different child each Friday and is to be returned by the following Thursday. Please put photos in the book of your time together. If you would like any photos printing out, please email them to me or put them on Tapestry.
- Reception reading books will be changed every Monday and Thursday. Please sign and date every time you read with your child. Please try to read with your child four times a week.
- Reception homework will be given out on a Friday and is due in the following Thursday. However, if your child is too tired, they do not need to do this.
- All children need a spare change of clothes in school as if they have a toileting accident or fall over in the mud, they much prefer to put on their own clothes!
- All children need a water bottle in school with their name on.
- We provide school fruit for snack time but many children like to bring their own snack. Please ensure that these are healthy, nut free and named.
- P.E. will be on a Thursday morning. Reception children need a PE bag in school at all times. Nursery don't need to have a PE kit but many children choose to have one. If your Nursery child would like a PE kit, they need shorts, tshirt, socks and plimsolls. We will always help with getting changed but encourage the children to try first before asking for help so please practise getting dressed at home.
- Reception and Nursery can bring in one item for Show and Tell a week but please link these to our topic. Examples for this term are tiger or family themed books, tiger toys and a special object to their family.

Tapestry

We will upload observations on to Tapestry so you are able to see what the children have been learning and achieving at school. This is a useful way of finding out what they have done at school as when you ask them, they will often say "playing". You are also able to upload photos to Tapestry and the children love being able to show their pictures and talk about their weekend or achievements at home.

Book and Biscuit

Our very popular 'Book and Biscuit' events will return again this term. You are invited into school to share a book with your child and have a biscuit and a drink. We will provide a range of fiction and non-fiction books but you are welcome to bring a book from home. If you can't attend, grandparents or close friends can attend and your child will always be able to read with an adult from the class.

- Tuesday 19th September – 3:00 – 3:25pm.
- Friday 29th September – Grandparents' Day 2:15pm – 3:25pm (more information to follow)
- Monday 9th October – 3:00 – 3:25pm.

We are looking forward to a busy and exciting term. If you have any questions or worries, please don't hesitate to get in contact. You can always chat to one of us in the morning or after school and you can also phone the school or email me.

Many Thanks,

Annabel Isherwood