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Acting Head Teacher Mrs Vicky Barron B.Sc(Hons) GTP Primary

Friday 7th September

Dear Parents and Carers,

Kestrel Class

Welcome back to school, we hope you have all had a lovely summer break and are ready for the term ahead! We are very pleased to see how well the children have settled in their new classroom this week and we are all looking forward to the rest of term.

Over the coming weeks we will be tweaking things a little further to make the classroom space as spacious as possible so please bear with us as make a few more changes!

This housekeeping letter just sets out a few details for the class but please do ask if you have any further questions. If you need to meet with either of us please either catch us in the morning to make an appointment or see Mrs Powell in the office. We are always available at the end of the day for a chat if you need anything, mornings are a little more tricky as we need to be in class with the children but if there is something important that we need to know in the morning at drop off of course please let us know.

Drop off in the mornings is working well so far, helped by having the new baskets for bags as well as the pegs for coats. As far as possible please can bags go into the baskets so there are just coats on the pegs as this makes it easier for children to walk through to the classroom. Children are encouraged to come into class as independently as possible and are doing very well at this so far. At pick up time children will come with the teacher to the gate at the end of the narrow walkway along the rear side of the school, so as to avoid a bottle neck with Eagle class, so please look out for them there. If you are picking up from multiple classes we will come and find you!

All children have been listened to read this week to check that the book band levels are still correct, books have been changed and reading diaries completed by staff so please take a look if you haven't already. We say this every year but reading really is such an important key skill, please listen to your child read regularly and fill in their reading diary with a comment. We value support from home and children are always pleased to show us how much they have done at home. Children will read at least once per week 1-1 with an adult in school, books will be changed and reading diaries checked each week. Children can let us know if they need a book change in between these times.

In terms of a break time snack - now that children are in class 2 they will need to bring their own snack to school each day as the free fruit for schools scheme is for children between the ages of 4 and 6. Please can we ask that this is a piece of fruit/vegetable or healthy non sugary snack - so no cake, biscuits or crisps please at all, we will ask children to put those away if we see them at break time. Children also need a water bottle in school every day.



Children are working in different groups for phonics, according to their needs. Spelling homework will be set by the staff member who leads their phonics group and for most will come home each week on a Friday for children to practise over the week in either a book or spellings folder. Spelling homework files need to be handed in for marking on a Thursday into the homework tray in the classroom. Spelling tests will take place on a Friday.

In terms of other homework we expect that children will read at home regularly, also that children will practise their times tables as this is one of their mathematics targets. Children in Year 2 need to be able to count on and back in 2's, 5's, 10's and ideally also 3's by the end of the academic year. Children in Year 3 need to be able to count on and back in 2's, 3's, 5's, 10's and also in 4's, 8's, 50's and 100's and find 10 or 100 more or less than a given number by the end of the year. Please find time to practise and make it as fun as possible by joining in with them or giving them mini challenges.

If it is your child's Birthday you are welcome to bring in a cake or cupcakes for children to share in class at the end of the day during story time. Please do not send in sweets, party bags or other items.

We will send home the Curriculum map for our theme 'Grand Designs' with the Head Teacher newsletter next week and will keep you regularly updated with the news from Kestrel class. In the meantime, have a lovely weekend and please do ask if you have any further questions.

Kind regards,

Mrs Barron and Mr Ringer