

## Reception/Year 1 Autumn 1 Newsletter

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to English Martyrs. We hope you have had a fantastic summer and are ready to start school! We are really looking forward to working with you and your child this year.

Over the coming weeks we will be introducing your child to the school routines and ensuring they are able to operate independently and confidently within the classroom environment. There are a number of ways in which you can help your child achieve this - ensure all their clothes and belongings are clearly labelled, encourage them to carry their own things in the morning and make sure that they can identify their book bag (a key ring attached to the handle is very helpful!)

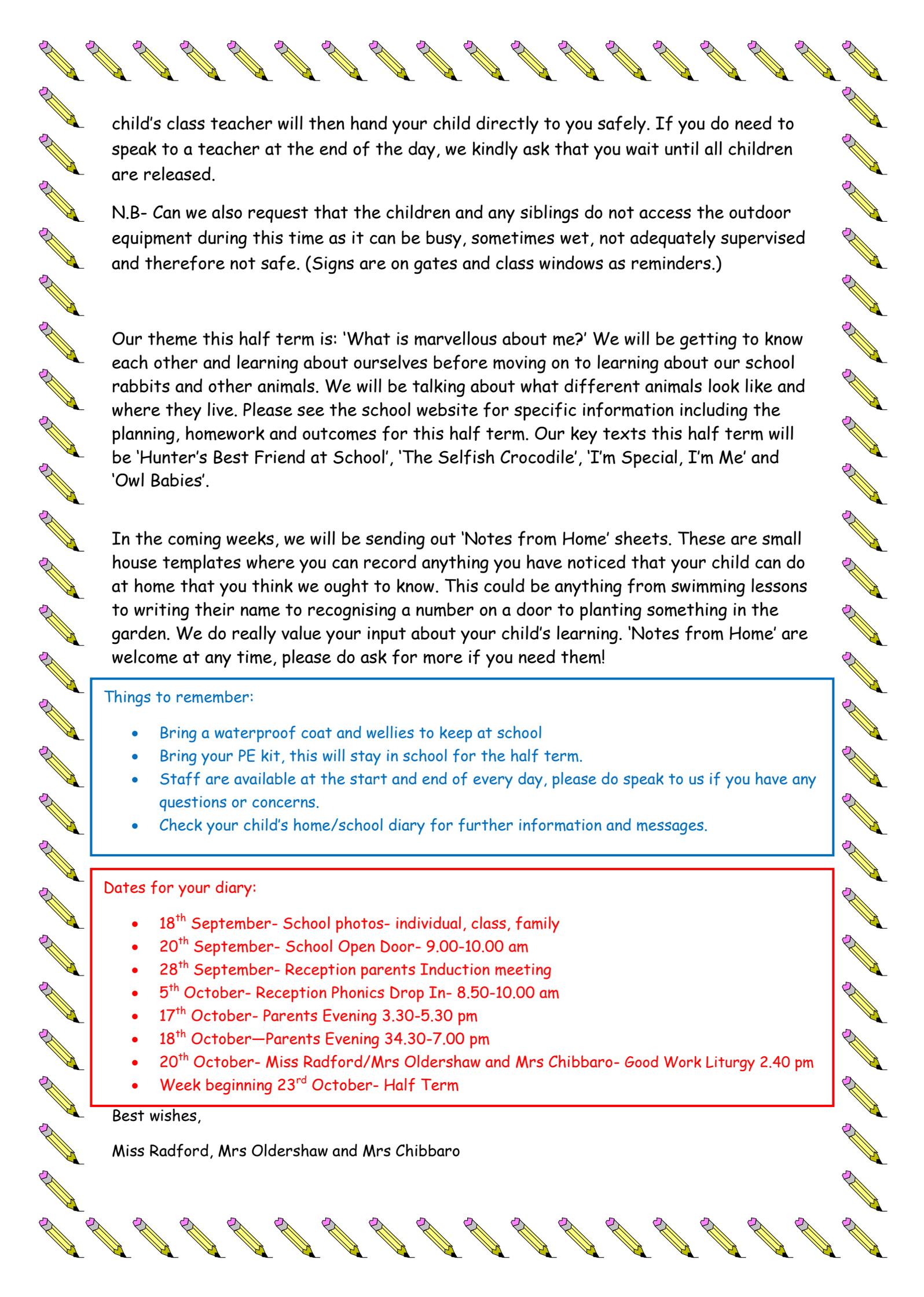
Expect your child to be very tired in the first few weeks and they may not share a lot about their day at school when they get home, please do not worry about this. If we are concerned about how your child is settling in we will speak to you. If you have any concerns please let a member of staff know as soon as possible.

Once your child has settled into the new term then they will bring home a school library book to share. It is important that children have access to a range of high quality texts. They will bring a reading scheme book home towards the end of the first half term once we have begun teaching phonics. In the meantime please use their home/school diary to comment on any books you have shared at home. This diary will be one of the key sources of information and communication please ensure you check it each day.

Morning and end of the day arrangements.

As many of our year 1 parents know the beginning and end of the day can be very busy. All children are to enter the first gate situated near the barn. Our children are encouraged to put their coats away independently in the barn on their named peg before taking their book bags into the classroom. We discourage parents entering the barn in the morning as it becomes noisy and crowded which of course is not only a hazard but this can also be distressing for some children. (There will be an additional adult to support the children in the barn whilst they are settling into school life.)

At the end of the day both gates will be opened for parents to enter the Reception outdoor area where you will wait for your child to be released. Parents are encouraged to collect their child's belongings from the barn in preparation for home time. Your



child's class teacher will then hand your child directly to you safely. If you do need to speak to a teacher at the end of the day, we kindly ask that you wait until all children are released.

N.B- Can we also request that the children and any siblings do not access the outdoor equipment during this time as it can be busy, sometimes wet, not adequately supervised and therefore not safe. (Signs are on gates and class windows as reminders.)

Our theme this half term is: 'What is marvellous about me?' We will be getting to know each other and learning about ourselves before moving on to learning about our school rabbits and other animals. We will be talking about what different animals look like and where they live. Please see the school website for specific information including the planning, homework and outcomes for this half term. Our key texts this half term will be 'Hunter's Best Friend at School', 'The Selfish Crocodile', 'I'm Special, I'm Me' and 'Owl Babies'.

In the coming weeks, we will be sending out 'Notes from Home' sheets. These are small house templates where you can record anything you have noticed that your child can do at home that you think we ought to know. This could be anything from swimming lessons to writing their name to recognising a number on a door to planting something in the garden. We do really value your input about your child's learning. 'Notes from Home' are welcome at any time, please do ask for more if you need them!

#### Things to remember:

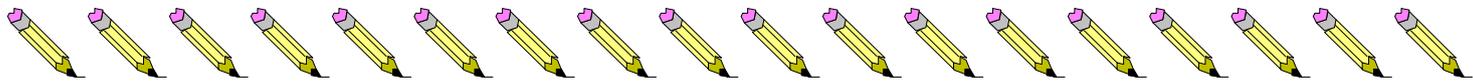
- Bring a waterproof coat and wellies to keep at school
- Bring your PE kit, this will stay in school for the half term.
- Staff are available at the start and end of every day, please do speak to us if you have any questions or concerns.
- Check your child's home/school diary for further information and messages.

#### Dates for your diary:

- 18<sup>th</sup> September- School photos- individual, class, family
- 20<sup>th</sup> September- School Open Door- 9.00-10.00 am
- 28<sup>th</sup> September- Reception parents Induction meeting
- 5<sup>th</sup> October- Reception Phonics Drop In- 8.50-10.00 am
- 17<sup>th</sup> October- Parents Evening 3.30-5.30 pm
- 18<sup>th</sup> October—Parents Evening 3.30-7.00 pm
- 20<sup>th</sup> October- Miss Radford/Mrs Oldershaw and Mrs Chibbaro- Good Work Liturgy 2.40 pm
- Week beginning 23<sup>rd</sup> October- Half Term

Best wishes,

Miss Radford, Mrs Oldershaw and Mrs Chibbaro



Miss Shaw, Mr Shelton and Mrs Draycott

