

A decorative border of red ladybugs with black spots, arranged in a grid-like pattern around the text. There are 18 ladybugs in each of the four corners, and a single row of 18 ladybugs at the top and bottom.

Reception/ Year 1 Advent 1 Newsletter

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to English Martyrs. 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 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 of 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 already be bringing home a reading book so please use their home/school diary to comment when you have listened to them read. Feel free to also write a comment about any books you have shared at home too. This diary will be one of the key sources of information and communication so 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 and book bags away independently in the barn on their named peg before taking their reading books/ diaries 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.

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: 'Why would a meerkat not live in the North Pole?' We will be learning about animals and where they live with a spotlight on meerkats and why they live in the Desert. 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 'Meerkat Mail', 'Milly the Meerkat' and 'Monty's Magnificent Mane'. We will end this half term with our Autumn Watch week where we will be observing the seasonal changes around us. Our text for this week is 'Leaf Man'.

Children are allowed to bring in a piece of fruit or a vegetable for snack/playtime. We encourage healthy choices in relation to food choices so no biscuits or crisps are allowed. Additionally, can we ask that if grapes are sent in with your child that these are halved as they pose a choking hazard if whole. Thank you for your support in this matter.

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:

- 19th September- School Open Door
- 24th September - School photos - individual, class, family
- 27th September - Reception parents Induction meeting
- 4th October - Reception Phonics Drop In - 8.50-10.00 am
- Week commencing 22nd October - Parents Evening 3.30-5.30 pm / 4.30-7.00 pm
- 19th October- Mrs Chibbaro and Miss Mitchell - Good Work Liturgy 2.40 pm
- 26th October - INSET day
- Week beginning 29th October- Half Term

Best wishes,

Miss Mitchell and Mrs Chibbaro

Mrs Draycott, Mr Shelton and Mrs Kent