

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are on to an incredible start to the school year - it has been wonderful watching the children settle into school life with confidence and enthusiasm. Friendships are also beginning to blossom. Exploring our new classroom and the wider school has been an adventure in itself. We have spent lots of time getting to know each other and settling into our daily routines. The start of a school year is always busy, so I would like to make you aware of the following:

Thank you for helping to make your child's start to school such a positive and successful experience. As we come to the end of our second week, we will continue with our current drop-off arrangements, with parents saying goodbye at the classroom door rather than entering the classroom. We feel this approach helps to encourage children's independence and confidence as they settle into school and become familiar with school routines. We will, of course, continue to provide support and reassurance to any children who still need a little extra help at drop-off.

- Please ensure that your child comes to school with their book bag and a named water bottle every day.
 - It is essential that every child has a book bag as this is where school communications, if any, will be placed each day along with your child's Reading Record and reading books and Speed Sound Book. *Please make a conscious effort to check your child's book bag each day.*
 - Your child does not need to bring a rucksack. We've found that children find it easier to stay organised when they have fewer belongings and a smaller load makes it easier for them to manage at pick-up time.
- Your child will need a complete change of spare clothes (t-shirt, underwear, trousers and socks) in school at all times. This is just in case of any accidents or messy play! Please ensure everything is named. Spare clothes do not need to be a set of school uniform. Thank you to those who have already sent in a spare set.
- PE will be on a **Wednesday**, week beginning 28th September. Please could children wear the correct kit (Longvernal P.E. t-shirt, black shorts or sports trousers and daps or trainers) to school on a Wednesday each week, in Term 1. PE days may change each half term so please keep an eye out for the end of term newsletter where changes will be communicated.
- Forest School is on a **Tuesday** morning, week beginning 28th September. Forest school will take place regardless of the weather (unless extreme) so please make sure your child comes to school on Tuesday's, wearing the appropriate attire (long sleeved top and trousers/leggings). With this in mind, please send your child into school with extra layers of clothing during the late Autumn and Winter months, it can get very cold out in the forest, therefore the more layers the better!
- Your child will need to have a pair of wellies, waterproof trousers and a waterproof coat in school at all times. Although our forest sessions are on a Tuesday this term, this doesn't mean your child's waterproofs and wellies won't be used on other days throughout the week - especially as the weather begins to turn. Again, please make sure everything is named.
 - Please could we ask that your child's waterproof forest coat is kept separate from the coat they wear to and from school each day. The forest waterproof coat can become extremely muddy during a forest session and may not have enough time to dry before lunchtime or Discovery Time, when your child may need to wear it again.

- As it starts to get colder, please provide your child with warmer items, including hats and gloves. Again, please name these. Your child has their own drawer, which they can keep these in, if preferred.
- Every child will be given a reading book to take home, along with a Reading Record. The books that have been sent home do not contain words but children should use them to create their own stories and talk about the illustrations (there are questions within the books to support discussions). Furthermore, please use this as an opportunity to support your child in how to hold a reading book, and turn the pages left to right etc.
- Children are expected to read at home at least 3 times a week. Books and Reading Records need to be brought to school daily. This way we can monitor progress and change books when necessary. Reading regularly has such a positive impact on every area of a child's learning, so your support with this would be much appreciated. All children will be required to read, Read, Write, Inc (R.W.I). scheme books **at least twice** to aid their fluency of sight word recognition.
 - Books with words will begin to be sent home after the October half term. Reading books will be carefully selected according to your child's current ability and stage of learning.
 - If we feel your child would benefit from reading the same book a few more times to build confidence, fluency and understanding, we may send the book home again.
- Children will also pick and take home a 'book to share' every week. This is a book of a higher reading level that can be read to and shared aloud with your child. This can also be written in their Reading Records.
- When we begin Phonics lessons, the children will be sent home with their sound books to practice letter formation and pronunciation. The children will begin to learn a new sound every day; therefore, it is important that they complete a page in their sound book every evening for consolidation.
- Once the children have learnt the first ten sounds, they will start to take home a R.W.I sound blending book. Please aim to go through the sounds with your child at home. Practice makes perfect!
 - Please keep an eye on your child's Reading Record for updates and communications about their phonics knowledge and progress.
- Homework slides will be sent home at the end of each week. Homework will be kept to a minimum, with activities and suggestions designed to help children practise and consolidate their new learning.
- At the end of each half term, a mini project will be sent home for your child to complete during the half-term break. The project will introduce children to the upcoming topic of learning, giving them an opportunity to explore the theme at home and begin developing their knowledge and understanding before it is introduced in class. Please bring any work or creations completed as part of the project into school so that we can celebrate the children's efforts and share their wonderful ideas with the class.
- It is important that children do not bring toys or similar items from home into school. From previous experience, we have found that these items can easily become lost or damaged and can sometimes lead to disagreements between friends. Thank you for your support in helping us to avoid this. If toys are brought into school, an adult will return them to you at the end of the day. We appreciate that four- and five-year-olds can become little masters of sneaking things into school, so please don't worry if this happens!

- As mentioned in the Home Visit packs given out to you in June or July, it is important that we recognise when your child does something to be celebrated at home. Please continue to complete a 'Proud Cloud' and send them into school via your child's book bag so we can celebrate and display all their achievements during our Circle Times. If you require any additional sheets of Proud Clouds please speak to a member of the Holly Class team.
- You should have received an email from Tapestry to set up your account. If your child previously attended Acorns Nursery, your account should already be active. Please watch for updates. If you encounter any issues, please let me know.
- You should now have an Arbor account. If you're unsure or haven't received any information, please contact the office.
- Please provide the office with an approved pick-up list and password if you haven't already. For safety, your child will only be released to approved adults. Any changes to pick-up must be communicated to me or the office in advance via phone or email.

As always, I am more than happy to answer any questions or queries you may have before or after school, so please do not hesitate to come and see me at any point throughout the year.

I am looking forward to an exciting year and working in partnership with you to best support your child.

Kind regards

Jess Collins

Holly Class Teacher

EYFS Lead

Holly Class Summary

Book Bags	Please only send your child in with a Book Bag (and lunchbox, if packed lunch) each day. Your child does not need a large backpack too!
PE	Wednesday - Children should come into school wearing their PE kits.
Forest	Tuesday - Children should come into school wearing their forest clothes (their own clothes)
Forest Kit (to be kept in school)	Waterproofs (coat and trousers) Wellies Extra layers (including socks!)
Spare Clothes (to be kept in school)	Trousers, top, jumper, socks and underwear. Doesn't need to be school uniform
Reading Expectations	To read at least 3x a week (scheme book/ book to share) Speed Sound Book/Sound Blending Book - daily Reading to be evidenced in Reading Records

Lunch (school dinners)	To be pre-ordered at least one week in advance. Any issues with this, please speak to the office.
Tapestry	You should've received an email to set up your account. Keep an eye out for Holly Class updates! Any issues with this please speak to Miss Collins.
Arbor	You should now have an account set up – please speak to the office if you have any issues with this.
Proud Clouds	As and when