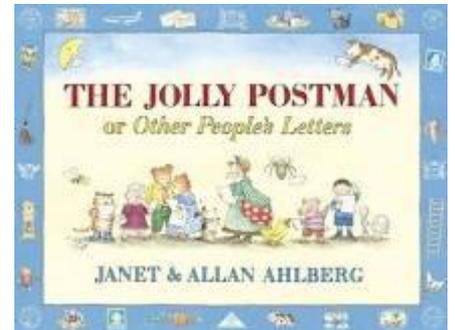


Dear Parents,

September 2020

Welcome back! I hope you all had a lovely summer and were able to have a holiday or some days out. The children have all settled in very well and have been very busy making new friends.

In Maple class this year, I will be the class teacher and Niki Holmes will be the teaching assistant. Our topic this term is 'People Who Help Us' based around the book 'The Jolly Postman and Other People's Letters' by Janet and Allan Ahlberg. The children are really enthusiastic about this book and they have already started to learn to retell the story from memory by following the story map. We will use this book to complete a variety of literacy activities, for



example, ordering and acting out the story, describing the characters and their feelings and then the children will create their own version of the story. In topic work, the children will learn all about themselves and their families, including talking about what they like and dislike and who is in their family. Then, they will learn about different people who help us, including builders, healthcare professionals, emergency workers and postal workers. There will be lots of art opportunities and we are hoping to organise a walk around the village.

All children will take part in a daily phonics lesson. Reception will be starting to learn Phase 2 sounds and will be practising their blending and segmenting skills to enable them to read and write captions. We will also be focusing on letter formation, so please encourage your child to form their letters correctly. Nursery will be focusing on their listening skills, identifying different sounds and recognising their name

In Maths, Reception will start by learning about repeating patterns. Then they will focus on numbers to 5. This will include recognising, counting using 1:1 correspondence and ordering the numbers as well as making them in different ways and recalling one more and one less facts. Nursery will be focusing on using number language in their play and starting to use 1:1 correspondence when counting.

Reception will have reading books which will be changed on a Monday and a Thursday. Please ensure that you read your child's reading book child at least four times a week and date and sign in the reading record every time. If a child reads four times a week, they will be rewarded with a star. Any child who has five stars at the end of this term, will be rewarded with a prize. Reading at home really makes a difference to your child and we really appreciate all the reading completed at home. All children are starting with picture books. When reading, they need to tell you a story using the pictures. Try to encourage story language and full sentences. You can also ask questions about the feelings and what might happen next. If you would like to talk about reading books, please let me know. All children progress at different rates, so please do not worry!

Homework will be given on a Friday and is due the following Thursday. These short tasks are designed to reinforce what the children have been learning about during the week. If your child is too tired to complete the homework, they do not need to do it.

P.E. will take place on a Wednesday afternoon. Please ensure that all Reception children have a P.E. kit in school. Nursery children do not need a P.E. kit but are more than welcome to bring one. If they want a kit, they just need a pair of shorts, a t-shirt and some plimsolls. Please help your child to practice getting dressed and undressed at home to make changing for P.E. easier for them. Obviously, we will help if they get stuck, but we like them to have a go first. Please ensure that all items are named as we have had many items go missing already!

Children need a spare change of clothes in school at all times. If they have a toileting accident or their clothes get wet or muddy, they much prefer to put their own clothes on. If we lend you any clothes, please return them.

Our 'High Flyers' will continue again this year. Using the balloons, please write down something that your child has done recently that you are proud off, for example, moving up a level in swimming lessons, getting dressed independently or helping to set the table for dinner. We will put 'Hot Air Balloon' templates in bookbags for you to write on. Please send them back to school as we read them out in front of the class and then they go on display. These can be filled in anytime during the term. If you need more, please ask and we will pop them in bookbags.

Muddles the Bear will also be going on more adventures this year but he will need to be quarantined. He will go home on a Friday but needs to be returned by Tuesday. If he does not return on Tuesday, he will not be able to go home at the weekend. Please take photos of your weekend with Muddles and stick them in the book with captions of what you have done. Please feel free to email me photos to print out if needed.

New parents should have received an email about accessing Tapestry and continuing parents should be able to access it in the same way as last year. If you do not have a login, please let me know and I will look into it. You will be able to see observations that we take at school and you will also be able to contribute your own observations e.g. your child riding a bike or brushing their teeth.

Normally, we have lots of opportunities for parents to come into school to see what the children are doing and help them learn. However, these will not be able to happen this year, but we are investigating different ways of getting you involved, for example, a socially distanced outside book and biscuit. If you have any ideas of activities we could do, please let us know!

If you have any questions or concerns, please speak to one of us in the morning or email me on [a.isherwood@denton.northants.sch.uk](mailto:a.isherwood@denton.northants.sch.uk).

Many Thanks                      Annabel Isherwood