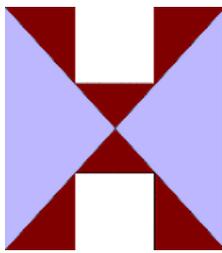
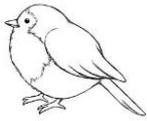


West
Sussex
County
Council



HANDCROSS PRIMARY SCHOOL
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Welcome to Robins



I am writing to welcome you to Robins class and to Year 1! I hope you and the children are as excited about the year ahead as we are! I hope that the following letter is informative. The attached curriculum map has more details about what we will be learning in our first topic this year, 'Super Me!'

The Beginning of the School Day - The Robins will come into the classroom independently from the playground. Please say 'goodbye' to your child on the playground and not on/ near the bottom of the stairs as this could cause an obstruction. Children need to bring their book bags to school every day. We ask them to change their reading books every day, if needed, when they come in and put their things away.

The End of the School Day - Please wait on the playground itself and not on the Robins stairs. To ensure the safety of all children, they will be dismissed one at a time when I call them. This ensures that I see that parents have taken charge of their children before leaving the school grounds. Please let me know in the morning if someone else is picking up your child that afternoon. If another adult regularly picks them up, you may wish to *always* give them permission to collect your child in your absence. Please speak to me if this is the case. We will not let children go with another adult unless we have been told in advance.

Reading - We can't emphasise enough how beneficial it is for your child to read regularly at home; it helps them to progress so much more. As you were used to last year, please try to hear your child read each school night and record a brief comment in their yellow reading diary. Children will continue to be rewarded with a reading certificate if they have 5 diary entries per week for 6 weeks. The children also have lots of opportunities to read and enjoy books with adults throughout the week at school.

Reading Helpers - We would love for parents to come into school every week to listen to children read. If you enjoy reading and sharing stories with children, then you have all the skills needed! We can also provide some 'Top Tips' if you feel this would be helpful. In Robins, our parent reading slots will be from 2.30pm on a Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Please come and see me if you think you would like to help.

Homework - New maths and spelling homework will go home in homework folders on a Thursday and completed sheets should be returned in the folders on a Monday. Children are expected to place their folder in the tray provided in the classroom first thing on a Monday morning. We would be grateful if you could remind them to do this. Please remove old sheets and store them separately otherwise folders can become very chunky and new work can get lost.

Spellings - As well as daily reading, we expect the children to practise the spellings set by their phonics teacher. Their spellings will continue to be a mixture of words with the sounds they have been learning and high frequency words. Spellings can be practised interactively on Spellodrome as well as with pencils and paper. Children have many opportunities to practise their spellings throughout the week at school using both these methods. If you would like support using Spellodrome, please do not hesitate to come and ask.



NEARS

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Maths - Maths homework will relate to the skills we have been learning prior to the homework being set. It is an invaluable opportunity for the children to practise, consolidate and apply what they have learnt. If you would like any support with maths at home, please do not hesitate to come and ask.

PE - This year, PE will take place on Wednesday afternoons and Tuesday mornings. Children do not need to change out of their uniform for PE but long hair must be tied back and earrings removed or covered. Please ensure that your child wears the correct uniform so they are 'ready to go' for PE lesson. If you are unsure of the approved uniform, please speak to the school office. For Gym and Dance, children must remove their footwear. If there is a reason why your child needs to keep their shoes on, please let me know.

Fruit, Water Bottles and Milk - Children should bring in a named, freshly filled water bottle to school every day. Juice drinks will only be allowed as an additional drink at lunchtime. If you would like your child to have a bottle of milk in the morning, please see the office for more information. Children will receive a free piece of fruit each morning but may bring in their own fruit snack if they prefer.

Lost Property - Please label all of your child's clothing and belongings. If labelled, all lost property can be returned on the day it is lost.

Adventure Playground - Due to health and safety guidelines, children are only allowed to use this equipment during school hours and must be supervised by a member of school staff. We would appreciate your support in explaining this to the children. Pre-school children are not allowed to use this equipment. Please also ensure that children do not touch any equipment in the outdoor classroom before school.

Visits and Events Planned This Term - Without parent contributions we cannot arrange educational trips or events. We are, however, mindful of the associated costs and, therefore, thought you would find it helpful to have a list of the contributions that will be needed for this term's activities ahead of time. Letters about each visit or event will be sent nearer the time and no payment is expected now.

Senses Exploration Morning - Monday 1st October - 50p per child

Walk into Handcross village - Thursday 4th October - FREE

Trip to Tilgate Park - Monday 15th October - Approx. £10.00 per child

Autumn walk to Nymans Gardens - TBC - FREE

Trip to Crawley Fire Station - TBC (after half term) - Approx. £4 per child

Growing and Changing - As part of our topic, the children will be learning about growing and changing. They will be making books about how they have grown from babies, to toddlers, to children. We would appreciate it if you could send in around 4 or 5 photographs showing your child at different ages. Please do not send precious originals as the photos will be glued into books! Please bring these into school before Monday 17th of September.

Please do come and see me if you have any queries or concerns about anything mentioned here or anything else about the transition into Robins class and Year 1. We are always here to help!

Thank you for your support and co-operation,

Miss Sarah Palmer