



**GRETTON
PRIMARY
SCHOOL**

**Gretton
Cheltenham
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Headteacher: Mr Adam Sallis MEd, NASEN, NPQH

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Tuesday 1st September

Dear Parent/Guardian,

A very warm welcome to Robins class! This letter is to provide you with some key information for the Autumn Term. I feel very privileged to be your child's first teacher at Gretton and I am looking forward to getting to know them and you over the coming weeks.

Staffing:

I will teach Robins on a Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. Mrs Woolston will continue to be our Teaching Assistant in Robins every morning and Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons. On Thursday mornings, Mr Bridges and Mrs Woolston will take Robins up to forest school and in the afternoon, Mr Sallis will teach in Robins.

Communication:

Face to Face

I am always happy to have face to face conversations. If they are more than just a quick message, after school is a better time as I need to be present for the children in the morning.

Class Dojo

You should all now have received your login for class dojo. Class dojo is used in a number of different ways. It is where we post class updates, messages and photos and it is also used for us to give the children dojo points. The points go towards a weekly total for each house and the winning house is announced every week in celebration assembly. The children save their points until they reach at least 25 and would like to spend them in the dojo shop on a Friday afternoon.

There is a function to message me on class dojo. This is great for short informal messages, however if it is longer or of an important nature, please communicate via an email sent to the office. Mrs d'Arcy will ensure that the email is passed on to me. All absences must also be reported to the school office.

Website

There is some very useful information on the school website. I will soon update the Robins page with our Termly Overview and this letter will be there, should you need to refer back to it.

Forest School:

Our forest school sessions are on Thursday mornings with Mr Bridges and Mrs Woolston, both of whom are trained forest school instructors. Mr Bridges often requires additional parental support and if this is something you think you would like to commit to, either every week or a set date when you are able to help, please let myself or Mr Bridges know.

We will begin our forest school sessions in week 2 with an adventure walk in our local surroundings. For that session, they will only need their wellies (which will stay in school for our outdoor area) and a waterproof coat. Forest school sessions will then properly begin in week 3. They will go ahead unless the weather is absolutely torrential, so please

ensure that your child is dressed suitably. As the weather gets colder, they will need layers, hats, waterproof gloves and ideally an additional pair of thick socks during the winter months.

PE:

PE will be on a Wednesday afternoon from week 3. Please send your child to school dressed in their PE kits and trainers on that day. We will also be doing balance bike sessions during the week but the children do not need PE kit for them.

Little Wandle Phonics:

We teach Phonics at Gretton using the Little Wandle Systematic, Synthetic Phonics scheme. This will be taught each morning. On Friday 11th September when you pick your child up at 1:15pm, I will hold a short phonics information meeting in the school hall. I will also share the PowerPoint after the meeting if there is anyone who is unable to attend. The Little Wandle website has some great tips for parents should you wish to learn more about the scheme.

Reading and Reading Records:

Your child will soon be bringing home a Little Wandle reading book. At first, this will be a wordless book. As your child learns their sounds and can blend them together to read words, they will start to bring home books with words in them. The children will have already read this during school time so should be able to read it with relative fluency by the time they bring it home (when they have words in them). Please do take the time to read this book with your child and discuss the story/information with them, then record this in their reading record. Please comment in their reading record, or simply initial, just so we know it has been read at home. This can be recorded multiple times during the week you have the book for. Children will keep them until the following Friday, when I will collect them in and they will bring home a new one. **Books must be returned the following Friday to enable a new book to be sent home.**

On Mondays the children select a sharing book from our classroom library. This is for you to enjoy together at home. **Please return this book the following Monday.**

Everyday Essentials:

Every day in school your child needs their book bag and water bottle to bring into the classroom. Please leave their bag (with spare clothes in) and coat on their pegs. Encourage your child to be as independent as possible when hanging their bag and coat up and bringing their belongings inside.

All children also need to have wellies in school every day as they wear them when working in our outdoor area. These can be left in school in the compartments under their pegs.

Show and Tell:

We encourage the children to develop their speaking and listening skills by showing the class things they have made at school as well as talking about personal experiences and family news. If your child wants to bring something in from home that they would like to share, we will look after it until it is show and tell time.

Thank you for reading. With your continued support, we can ensure your child has a great start at Gretton! If you have any questions or you would like further information about anything, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Warm regards,

Mrs Patterson