Welcome! It has been wonderful getting to know you and your children over the past week, thank you for all of your support in settling the children into Reception.

Start of the school day
Children settle into Reception at different rates and even children who have been coming into school happily can sometimes have a wobble! The Nursery session starts before Reception so please let Nursery children and their parents through the gate first in the morning. Please let your child enter the classroom with their things as independently as possible, fruit and water can stay in children’s bookbags and staff can help them with these when they enter the classroom. This not only eases congestion but means we can start the day quickly and begin our learning. Please do not feel that you need to form a queue in the morning, children can come in when they are ready.

End of the school day
Thank you for your patience at dismissal time as we get to know you. Sometimes we need to pass on important messages which can take a few extra minutes. We kindly ask that you don’t look into classroom windows at the end of the day or crowd the doorways, this can be very distracting for the children. We also ask, due to our Safeguarding procedures, that you do not take photographs of the children through the classroom windows.

PLEASE LABEL EVERYTHING! INCLUDING WATER BOTTLES AND ALL SCHOOL UNIFORM

Homework
The first homework will be sent home on Friday 28th September. Please return it to school in your child’s bookbag on the following Wednesday. We ask that homework is completed in writing pencil, not felt tips or biro.

The homework comprises of a news sheet of the week’s learning and some activities for home. We would expect that as we move through the year, all activities will be completed. There is also a phonics file that details the phonics learning that week.

What your child needs each day
- Full school uniform
- Book bag
- Named water bottle
- Named piece of fruit for the afternoon
- A pair of Wellington boots to stay under their peg
- Spare underwear in their PE bag (if appropriate for your child)
- We ask that please, no toys to be brought in from home.
- We go outside in all weathers so please dress your child appropriately.

Pelham website
- Please take a look at the Pelham Primary website for more information about the staff in Reception this year.
- There is information on our class page about the long term curriculum.
- There is also some guidance around how to support your child in the Reception year.
Reading

Please remember to read with, or to your child every day and record this in your child’s red reading record book.

We change the reading books on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. An adult in the class will read with your child once a week. Please make sure your child always comes to school with their reading book and reading record in their bookbag.

Our books are colour-banded to denote difficulty. It is not a race to speed through the colour bands! Our aim in Reception is to foster a love of reading and books.

Reading books will start to come home from Monday 17th September.

Learning in the Autumn Term

Our topic in the first half of the term is; ‘We are family’, we will explore our own families and being part of a new family, Pelham Primary School! We will be settling into Reception routines and learning what it is like being at ‘Big School’. In Literacy, throughout the term we will be practising our names, writing simple words and learning our phonics through the Jolly Phonics programme. In Maths we will be working with numbers 0-20, learning one more and one less of a given number and beginning to work out simple problems. We will also be investigating shape, measure, capacity and weight in a variety of fun, play-based activities.

After half term, we will be exploring the topic; ‘Once Upon a Celebration’ where we will be looking at Traditional Tales and celebrations and festivals from a variety of cultures. If you would like to come into school and talk about your religion, culture or festivals that your family celebrates then please do let Miss Garstin or Mr Jones know. We welcome parent support throughout the year and have had parents help us in the following ways... an extra pair of hands during cooking or art activities, helping on trips, hearing children read, talking to children about their occupations or other interests. If you would like to help us or have a particular interest that might support our curriculum then do let us know.

Dates and Polka Theatre trip

Do keep an eye on Parentmail, Friday Flyers, the school website and homework books for information about exciting events in Reception this year. We will be seeing, ‘In the Winter Wood’ on Wednesday 14th December at the Polka Theatre. Lunch will be as normal, we ask that you collect your child at 3:00pm from the Polka Theatre on this day. More information to follow!

Finally...

We are looking forward to an action-packed term! Please do speak to us if you have any questions or concerns. It is our aim to ensure your child’s first year at school is a partnership between home and school so your child can have the very best start with us.

Best wishes,

Miss Garstin and Mr Jones