



# Cropredy C of E Primary School

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4<sup>th</sup> September 2019

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Cygnets! I am super excited to be teaching your children this year and am looking forward to seeing them grow and develop as we learn together. This letter will outline details of the class and hopefully answer any questions. It's a long one, bear with me!

## Adults in the classroom

Miss Hancock – class teacher

Mrs Woodhall – Classroom assistant (Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri)

Mrs Charlie Reid – teacher (Tuesday p.m & Thursday p.m)

Mrs Rachel Currie – classroom assistant (Wednesday)

Mrs Celia Fawcus will lead Forest School on a **Tuesday morning** with Mrs Woodhall and Mrs Reid.

## Morning Routines

For the two settling in days (Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 5<sup>th</sup>) we will encourage children to say goodbye at the door as they did if they went to Pre-School. On Friday 6<sup>th</sup>, the first full day for all children, we will line up on the playground. If your child needs you to walk up and say goodbye at the door then we can accommodate this but as time goes on we will encourage you to say goodbye on the playground. This boundary allows the children to know when it is time to say goodbye.

When the children come into the classroom they will be encouraged to hang up their own bags and coats etc. and get out their water bottles and put them in the box in the classroom. Each morning until half term the children will also come into the classroom write their name (copying from a name card if needed), put their name up on the dinner board and also vote for which book they would like to be read at the end of the day.

## Forest School

Our Forest School session will be on a **Tuesday morning**. Children can come to school already dressed in their Forest School kit with their uniform in a bag which they will change into before lunch. They will need old clothes underneath their waterproofs which can either be an all in one suit or a waterproof jacket and trousers. Wellies will need to be brought into school and will be kept there across the year as there may be times when they need them. **Please can all items be named.**

**The first Forest School session will be on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September.**

## PE

Our PE day will be a **Friday**. PE kits need to be brought into school and left in school for the term. We will send them home each half term to be washed. I advise that girls in winter months have spare PE socks for the days that they are wearing tights. **Please can all items be named clearly.**

**We will begin PE from the first full week please can all PE kits be in school by Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September.**

## Snack time and water bottles

We will have an open snack bar throughout the morning where children can help themselves to fruit and a cup of water if they haven't brought a water bottle.

We are also going to launch 'Toast Thursdays' where the children will be able to make their own toast, choose a topping, spread and cut it into quarters. This is a great opportunity to learn about risk taking, health and safety, turn taking, social skills, gross and fine motor skills and so much more! To begin with this will be very closely supervised by an adult but as the children learn it will become more independent. **Please let Miss Hancock or a member of the Cygnet's team if there is something that you would prefer your child didn't eat.**

We do ask that children bring a named water bottle into school every day which will be kept in a box inside the classroom. Children will need to get these out of their book bags each morning and will be collected before going home each day.

## Home Learning

Each week your child will bring home an overview of the learning done in class so that you can see what we have been learning. This will be stuck into a red book. Each week there will be **optional** ideas and activities for you to do at home should you wish to continue the learning with your child. This will begin on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September.

## Phonics and Reading Workshop

This workshop will be on **Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> September** at 9.15am in the school hall. This session will include information on how we teach **Phonics and Reading** and is beneficial for those parents who are new to this and those who may need a refresher! I will go through what phonics is, how we teach it and some of the vocabulary that we use that you may not have heard.

## Topics

Although learning in Early Years is primarily child-led we do follow certain topics and from these, branch out into what the children show an interest in. Often our learning will start with a story and when possible I will share with you the story that we are looking at so that, should you want to, you can talk to your child at home about it too. This term we will follow these topics as the basis for our learning:

- *Ourselves and All About Me* - this will cover our first 2 and a half weeks of term when the children are coming in for their morning and afternoon sessions. We will think about the children and their interests and share their Summer Holiday boxes.
- *Fireworks/Bonfire Night* - After half term we will look at fireworks and bonfire Night to help us get ready for our class assembly on **Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November @ 2pm**
- *Christmas* - As with all small children, Christmas will take over the classroom and our learning will be based around this magical and exciting time of year! We will have a Santa's Grotto role play and the glitter will come out!

In between these we will be doing some focused work on stories using the 'Talk4Writing' scheme that is being introduced across the whole school. Our first story that we will focus on 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt' a very popular story that most children will know.

### **Reading and Phonics**

We will begin learning letter sounds once the children are in all together. For the first two weeks we will be focusing on the listening skills that are essential for the blending and segmenting skills needed to read and write. This may continue for some children alongside Phase 2 (Single letter sounds).

You can help at home with this by talking about initial sounds for words, play 'I Spy', read rhyming books and talking about the rhyming words, orally segmenting (sounding out) words for your child to put back together e.g. 'Please can get your b-a-g?', let's brush our t-ee-th etc. Listening walks, rhyming games, alliteration (sad Sammy sat in the sea - words beginning with the same letters) are all areas that we will look at during the first 2 weeks and are things that can be practised at home too.

Once the children have started to consolidate the sounds and have begun to learn the skill of blending to read, we will assess where the children are and send home reading books appropriate to their ability. This will be closer to October half term for most children.

### **Tapestry**

We will be continuing with the use of Tapestry for our Learning Journals this year alongside the traditional style journals with photos and Post-It notes. It will take a few weeks to get Tapestry up and running on the iPads so don't expect to see any new posts for a while. I will let you all know when we are ready to go! Don't worry, we will still be observing and making notes on your child's learning and these will go into your child's learning journal which you will get to look at Parent's Evening. Those of you who are new to Cropredy, I will speak to you separately to talk about what Tapestry is and how it works.

### **Pupil Premium**

Pupil Premium funding is available to school where parents meet certain criteria regarding financial incomes, for example those families who earn less than £16k per household. The extra funding can be used in a variety of ways by the school but is there to support children to succeed and fulfil their maximum potential. Those children eligible for the extra funding are not publicised or shared outside of the education system. If you think your child may be eligible for this funding please see Mrs Haynes or Mrs Alfandary in the office who will be able to support you further with the application form.

*'The Lord is my shepherd.'* Psalm 23

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If you ticked eligibility for Pupil Premium on your application form, I will be giving you paperwork to complete to see whether you still clarify as often situations can change over the summer holidays.

### **PATHHway Sessions**

To help you get to know the staff in Cygnet's, to see how we learn and to allow you to come and see the range of activities that we have in Cygnets, I would like to invite you to join us for PATHHway - Parent and Teacher Half Hour sessions. These will happen once a half term for the Autumn and Spring terms and will alternate between a morning and an afternoon session. These will take place on a Thursday - please see dates and times below up until Christmas. These sessions will allow you to come in and spend some time with your child where they can show you the activities they have been accessing and also have a look at their writing books and Learning Journal which we are still using to add certain pieces of work to and their 'next steps'.

### **Autumn PATHHway dates:**

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> October - **morning 8.45am - 9.15am**

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> November - **afternoon 2pm - 2.30pm**

### **Useful Dates for the term:**

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> September** - First full day for ALL children in Cygnets

**Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> September** - Harvest Service @ Church - 1.30pm - WHOLE SCHOOL

**Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> September** - Parents Phonics Workshop @ 9.15am in the hall

**Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October** - Parents Evening

**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> October** - Parents Evening

**Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October** - Break up for HALF TERM

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November** - School re-opens for children

**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November** - Cygnet Class assembly @2pm

**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> November** - afternoon PATHHway session 2pm - 2.30pm

**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December** - Cygnet and KS1 Christmas Play @ 1.15pm

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December** - Cygnet and KS1 Christmas Play @ 9.30am and 1.15pm

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December** - Christmas Jumper Day

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December** - Christmas Service @ church - 1pm

*(Please note that these dates and times are subject to change but I will endeavour to let you know of any changes in good time)*

Sorry to bombard with so much information in my first letter! I hope that I have answered any questions that you may have. If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to ask myself or Mrs Woodhall at drop off times.

I am looking forward to working with you and your children this year!

Miss Hancock

*Cygnets class teacher and Key Stage 1 Leader*

*'The Lord is my shepherd.' Psalm 23*

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