



Ashlands
Church of England
Primary School

Headteacher: Miss Nicola Ball
Chair of Governors: Mr David Harvey

8th September 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

Reception Class Letter.
Welcome to Sweet Chestnut Class!

The children are settling well into school, we have been really impressed the way the children have settled into Sweet Chestnut and into the routines and expectations that come with starting school. The children have loved getting to know their new classroom and classmates. They have helped to write our Class Charter; a set of rules which they have all signed and agreed to keep within the classroom. It has been great to see the children coming in settled and putting their belongings away independently each morning.

Marvellous Me!

The EYFS focus for this term is 'Marvellous me' which will link to Personal, Social and Emotional Development. We will learn about ourselves, how we can look after ourselves and those all around us. We will be learning all about our families and the community that we live in. Alongside our overarching topic of 'Marvellous Me' each week we will be exploring different themes in our learning and continuous provision. This topic will enable each child to access a broad range of learning and enhance all areas of their development and learning.

PE

Our PE session will be on Monday Afternoon with Mrs Chick. All children must come to school wearing the correct PE kit on this day. Children will also be taking part in Dance Sessions with Keri Hill on a Friday afternoon, during the second half of the Autumn Term. Children **will not** need to wear PE kit for these sessions, they will do these in their school uniform.

Forest School

Forest School will be every week on starting this Thursday 11th September. On a Thursday, children will come into school in their outdoor clothes and bring their wellies with them in a named bag. Please see separate Forest School letter for information about Forest School sessions.

Reading

At Ashlands we use the 'unlocking letters and sounds' reading scheme. The books link more closely with the graphemes and phonemes the children have learnt. Each book is fully decodable and follows the children phonic learning. We will be holding a phonics evening with our lovely Literacy lead on Thursday 25th September, more information on this to follow.

Each week the children are asked to read at home at least 3 times a week and record this in their

Love of Learning, Love of Life, Love of One Another

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reading log. The children have been challenged to achieve 20 reads by half term and will need to ensure they fill in their Reading Maps to show their progress and to achieve their certificates. Chestnut class will begin to bring home reading books after the phonics meeting. Some of these books may be books with no words to begin with but please share and discuss these with your children. Reading books will be changed on Mondays and Thursdays once the 3 read approach has been completed on each book:

- The first read should focus on decoding and reading each word confidently. The books will only contain words which are made up of phonemes your child has covered as part of the phonic programme.
- The second read should focus on supporting your child with using a 'storytelling' voice to read their book.
- The third read should focus on shared reading and engaging your child's comprehension skills.

Phonics

This term in phonics we are focusing on learning new phonemes both orally and in written forms. On a Tuesday your child will bring home the phonemes they are learning that week with some small tasks related to them. We will be spending lots of time on our letter formation and pencil control/grip to enable the children to write and form graphemes correctly.

Maths

In maths we will be learning and practicing to count reliably up to 10, as well as, using the language associated with the number, whilst being able to represent them both in a pictorial and written form. A lot of this learning will be practical, hands-on activities to allow the children to immerse themselves in their mathematical learning. We will be practicing this for most of the first half term, making sure their knowledge of numbers is strong.

Things to help us at school:

- With winter approaching, please help your child to be independent putting on their coat, including their zip.
- Please practise eating with a knife, fork and spoon to support the children with their hot dinners.
- Ensure everything your children brings into school is labelled with their name.
- Please ensure that your child has their own drinks bottle with their name on.

If you have any questions or queries, please do come and speak to any member of the Chestnut Class Team.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Collicutt and Mrs Jones
Chestnut Class Teacher