



Fortnightly – Friday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2020

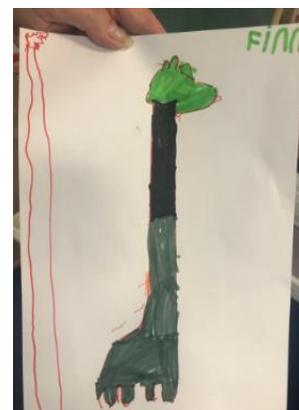
Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to what has been a slightly strange start to the academic year. I would normally know who most of you are by now, but with such limited contact, I'm even struggling to recognise some of our more familiar faces, through masks and sunglasses!

I would like to thank you all for following our safety guidelines, picking up on time, and wearing the required masks, it has really helped enormously to ensure a safe a smooth transition for the children. However, can Reception parents and carers support us even further with the following;

- *Have any bags on children's backs (they shouldn't need a bag, unless they are replacing clothes)*
- *Come straight into school carrying only their water bottle,*
- *If they have a bike or scooter, they come first in and put their water bottle down so they have both hands, rather than parents holding onto it.*
- *After their bike or scooter is away, it's straight to class for sanitizing, unless an adult from their class is doing it at the gate.*

The children have been absolutely amazing! They have settled in well, are learning the new routines and enjoying the wonderful sunshine. They have been making the most of everything on offer, outside and inside. It has been lovely to see them all so happily engaged and busy.



There has been lots of measuring and weighing happening in Pine Martens. Finn worked out his Dinosaur was 20cm and how much it would take to fill the scales! Gia is weighing the toys, she is waiting for the hand to reach the number four.



The Nursery children have been enjoying the snack area with Ms Cox, choosing, making and clearing away their snacks by themselves. Outside, using the ramps and water for their cars.





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Please let your child's teacher know if you have not yet got access to our online learning platform called Class Dojo. We will be using this a lot as a means of communication, and for you to upload children's work from home, especially in Year 1.

Next week Reception start PE, please make sure they come to school wearing their PE kit.

Finally, may I give **Nursery parents and carers** a gentle reminder about our uniform. Remember in the **Nursery**, it's **jogging bottoms and jumpers rather than cardigans**. Some children are wearing school trousers with clasps and the buttons on cardigans are very tricky. Thanks for your support with this, we know mornings can be tricky.

Thank you so much to those of you who have already donated to our £10 fund. Your contribution is much appreciated. It's never too late to donate and you can do this online if you so wish using ParentPay if you are already set up.

Have a lovely weekend  
Jessica Mendelssohn Early Years Lead and Assistant Head teacher

## NURSERY

We have had the most amazing week at Nursery seeing our old children so excited to be back after such a long time away. We have welcomed most of our new children and their families to GT nursery and have been astonished at how quickly they are all settling in. Our full-time children have been doing full days since Monday and have been learning the lunch time routine with Ms Rene and Ms Samim who are our lunchtime assistants. Many thanks to you both for making this a calm and relaxed time for the children.



A big thank you to you all for coming in for the stay and play sessions, it was so good to meet you and your child, I think the session has really helped the children to make the transition smoothly. Also thanks for being so cooperative with our entrance to Nursery and going home routines, this is work in progress but I think it is working well at the moment, there may be some tweaks along the way!



Thank you to those of you who have paid your £10 Nursery fund contribution, this enables us to buy groceries for the snack table and replenish some of our arts and crafts stock.



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We very much look forward to sharing your child's learning and progress over the coming weeks and months.



Hedgehogs have been busy with the maths resources and getting creative with the playdough.

## RECEPTION

The children in Reception have been settling in well. We are all learning the rules and getting used to what a day in school looks like. Staying for lunch has been very smooth, and the children have been making lots of new friends.



The garden has been very popular, and the children have been making the most of all of the resources and the lovely weather! From creating 'twangers' and boats at the woodwork bench to building bridges and houses with the large construction, and from making slime and mucky pies in the mud kitchen to negotiating the climbing frame and the A-frames and ladders. They have been very busy!

Inside the classroom, the Otters have also been busy! Among other things, they made their own snakes and ladders board and some playdough for the home corner, as well as creating their own narratives while playing with the trains, Lego and dinosaurs.



Next week, we will be carrying out Phonics assessments, ready for when our Read, Write Inc phonics sessions start. The children will be grouped with others at the same stage of learning from within the year group, and we will run 6 groups. The children are re-assessed around every 6 weeks and groups altered accordingly.



Pine Marten class have settled really well and are busy exploring and learning. Leo, Finn and Milo made a helicopter with blades.



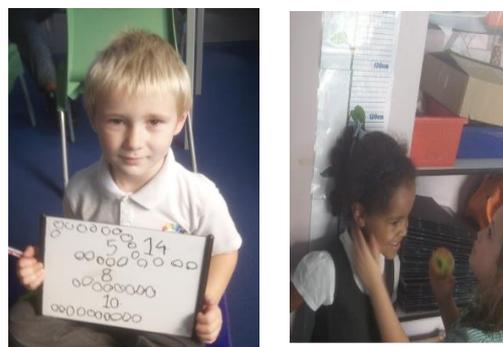
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Ella and Evie made a car to go to the shops.

## YEAR 1

We've had a lovely time this week learning outside in our playground, the science garden, the edible garden and at the field. We enjoyed our PE and did lots of fabulous catching and balancing. Reading outside has been great fun, practising our sounds and blending with our teachers. We've carried on counting everything we can find and adding our numbers together wherever we are and finding out how much we have grown by measuring ourselves.



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**RECEPTION PE STARTS THIS TUESDAY PLEASE SEND CHILDREN TO SCHOOL IN THEIR PE KITS.**

### September

**Monday 21<sup>st</sup> – School Streets Start**

**Monday 21<sup>st</sup> Start applying for Reception – reminders!**

**Monday 28<sup>th</sup> – Harvest Festival**

### October

**Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> Black History Month begins.**

**Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> - IROKO Theatre workshops for Reception and Year 1.**

**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> – Randolph Matthews performances YR – Y6**

**Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October – break up for half term**

### Looking ahead - November

**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November – Remembrance Day**

### December

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December – Last day of school finish at 1.30**

**Nursery Am 8.45 - 10.45 finish**

**Nursery PM 11.30 – 1.30 finish**

**Full time 8.45 – 1.30/1.40 finish**