

St. Mary's C. E. Primary School

Brookpit Lane, Clymping, Littlehampton, West Sussex, BN17 5QU
Tel: 01903 714325 • email: office@st-marysclymping.w-sussex.sch.uk • www.stmarysclymping.org.uk



Headteacher: Justin Murray

Friday 12th September 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to the first half of the Autumn Term in Reception! We have been so impressed with how well the children have settled into school life already. Thank you to those of you who have sent in their *All About Me* posters — they are amazing! The children have loved sharing them with us and their classmates. If you haven't had an opportunity to make one yet, there is still time. It's a great way for the children to get to know each other, so please send them in when you can.

Our Topic – *Marvellous Me*

This half term, our topic is *Marvellous Me*. We will be focusing on ourselves and on building relationships with both children and adults. We'll be learning how to play and work together, take turns, and share fairly.

The children will also:

- Explore the classroom environment and learn to select and use resources independently.
- Think about the special people in their lives and why they are important.
- Learn about friendship — how to make friends and how to be a good friend too.
- In RE, learn about the Creation Story and why God is important to Christians.

We will also be reciting and exploring traditional nursery rhymes such as *Incy Wincy Spider* and *Humpty Dumpty*. Linked to these rhymes, the children will take part in a variety of fun activities like spider hunts and wall building.

Attached to this letter is a **topic web**, which outlines the key skills we will be focusing on throughout the half term.

The School Day

From **Monday 15th September**, the children will begin full-time. Please come and speak to us if your child will continue on a part-time timetable. From this date, we will join the rest of the school with start times. Our gates open at 8.35am. Children can come through the main gate with their parents/carers and be taken to the door of the glass corridor. Mrs Ashton will welcome the children at the door, and I will be waiting for the children in the classroom. All children **MUST** be in school by 8.40am for registration. The gate will close at 8.45am. P

Home time will be at **3:10pm**, and we will exit through the same glass corridor door. Please wait on the playground for your child to be dismissed.

Lunch

Lunch is from **12:00pm to 1:00pm**. If your child remains part-time, they are welcome to stay for lunch and go home at around **1:10pm**, once they have gathered their belongings.

WOW Board

In the classroom, you may have noticed our **WOW Wall**, which is currently looking a bit empty! We'd love to use this board to celebrate the children's achievements at home. You are welcome to send in photographs, certificates, drawings, writing, or anything else that your child is proud of. These will be proudly displayed in the classroom.

Forest School & PE

Just a reminder:

- **Forest School** starts on **Tuesday 16th September**
- **PE** begins on **Wednesday 17th September**

Please ensure the children come dressed in the appropriate clothing on these days. If you have any questions, feel free to come and see me. Forest School is run by Mrs Ashton and Mrs Mitchell.

Water Bottles

We encourage children to drink water regularly throughout the day. Their bottles are stored in a classroom box and are accessible at all times.

Reading and Phonics

We encourage you to share books with your children regularly. This week, the children loved choosing a **library book** to take home. We will continue to change library books every **Monday and Friday**.

Today, your child came home with either a **Chatter Pack** or a **Maths game**.

- The Chatter Pack contains a book and an ideas card to help with discussion at home.
- The Maths games support number recognition and counting skills.

These will be changed every **Friday**.

From **Monday 22nd September**, the children will begin **daily phonics sessions**, during which letter sounds will be introduced. Once we've learnt a sound, a copy will be sent home and stuck into your child's **Home/School Sound Book**, which is kept in their book bag.

Please practise these sounds with your child as they are introduced. The sheets include guidance on pronunciation and letter formation. As the children begin to blend sounds into words and learn most single sounds, they will start bringing home early reading books.

We'll provide more information once they reach this stage.

Reward Points – ClassDojo

We use an online reward system called **ClassDojo**. Each child has their own avatar and can earn Dojo points for things like:

- Good reading
- Trying hard
- Being a good friend

Once your child earns **50 points**, they'll receive a certificate in our special **Celebration Assembly** with Oliver Class. The online system allows you to keep track of your child's points.

Wellies and Waterproofs

To help us use the field in all weathers, please send in a named pair of **wellies** that will stay at school. These are stored in the welly rack at the back of the classroom. Thank you if you've already provided these.

We also ask that children have a **waterproof suit** (either all-in-one or separate jacket and trousers) to ensure we can play outside in any weather. Please label these and place them on your child's peg.

Year 6 Buddies

All Reception children have been paired with a **Year 6 buddy**. The children met their buddies this week, and they've been helping them during playtimes and lunchtimes. Hopefully, your child can tell you who their buddy is!

Parent Consultations

We will be holding **Parent Consultations** on **Wednesday 22nd October**. During this meeting, we will discuss how your child has settled into school and their next learning steps. Please keep an eye on the newsletter for more details.

Phonics and Maths Workshop

We will be holding a **Phonics and Maths Workshop** on **Thursday 23rd October at 2:30pm** in the Farrant Classroom. During the session, we will:

- Introduce our phonics and maths schemes
- Walk you through a typical Reception day
- Answer any questions you may have

We hope many of you will be able to attend this valuable session.

Whole School Communication

Every other **Friday**, you'll also receive a **newsletter from Mr Murray**. Please take a few minutes to read it so you stay informed about weekly events. If you did not receive a newsletter, please check with the office to ensure they have the correct email address for you.

If you have any questions, queries or concerns, please don't hesitate to get in touch. You can message us via **ClassDojo**, or for anything more urgent, please contact the school office directly.

Here's to a happy and fun term ahead!

Kind regards,

Mrs Anderson, Mrs Mitchell and Mrs Ashton