



F2 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope your children have enjoyed meeting their new friends in Foundation Stage 2; it has been great to see some familiar and new faces! The children have had a fantastic start and have settled in well, exploring all the areas in the environment.

This newsletter aims to answer any questions you may have about your child's time in Foundation Stage 2, especially throughout the coming weeks.

Topic – Who am I?

This half term we are focusing on the question 'Who am I?' We will use a selection of story books to help us learn and answer our Big Question. We will look at stories such as *The Colour Monster* by Anna Llenas, *We are Family* by Patricia Hegarty, *A Superhero Like You* by Dr Ranj, *The Smartest Giant in Town* by Julia Donaldson and the traditional tale of *The Little Red Hen*. Alongside our Big Question, we will also be exploring other concepts such as friendship, sharing and being helpful. We will be promoting the Berry Hill ethos of *Being Kind, Working Hard and Being Brave* by daily awarding certificates to children who have demonstrated these characteristics throughout the day



Wellington Boots and Waterproofs



Children have access to the outdoor environment every day. This includes our natural/wild area, the mud kitchen and sand and water play. We provide children with aprons however, we are unable to provide them all with wellington boots and waterproof coats as we only have a few of each. We recommend that you provide a pair of wellington boots for your child to keep at school so that they can access the outdoor areas every day. Without wellingtons, your child may not have full access to some areas. Also ensure that children attend school with an appropriate coat for the weather that day. We do still go outside during wet and cold weather. Children can bring wellington boots on a Monday and take them home on a Friday so that they can be used at home over the weekend.



PE kit:



We have PE on Friday afternoon and children will need to come to school already wearing their PE kit. We will be utilising the outdoor space so children will be outside for PE as much as possible. Please ensure children have a suitable PE kit such as a warm t-shirt, tracksuit bottoms, a jumper and trainers. Children will wear their PE kit all day. Please can you ensure that long hair is tied back and **all** jewellery is removed, this includes studded earrings.



Forest Friday:



On a Friday afternoon will be spending time outside in our natural/wild area. We will continue to go outside for the afternoon in all seasons, including Winter. Therefore, please ensure your child has a warm and waterproof coat to wear as well as a pair of wellington boots. Alternatively, to a coat, children may wear an all in one, hooded, waterproof suit over the top of their clothes. Also, please ensure your child has a hat, scarf and a pair of gloves, especially as the weather gets colder. All clothes need to be washable as children will likely get dirty! Please note that your children will wear the same clothes for PE and Forest Friday.

Uniform and belongings:

Please ensure your child's uniform (including PE/Forest Friday clothes) and belongings are **ALL labelled with their first and last name** so that in the unfortunate case that something is lost, we can identify the owner and return it to them.

We do politely ask that belongings, such as toys and special items, are left at home to ensure they are kept safe and to prevent them from getting lost.

Milk:

If you would like your child to have milk, you will need to register with the 'Cool Milk' scheme. You should find this in your pack. Please see the office if you have any problems with this. When your child turns 5, you will need to re-register with the scheme. Again, any issues please contact the office.

Phonics and Reading:

We will be beginning our phonics programme on Monday 9th September. Children will follow the Little Wandle Letters and Sounds revised programme. Children will start to bring home a phonics book after four weeks of our phonics programme. Children will bring home two books; a reading practice book and a sharing book. The reading practice book contains words with sounds your child has learnt at school and is for them to read to you. The sharing book is a story or non-fiction book that will be above your child's reading level. This is a book for you to read to them to promote a love of reading together. In the diary you will see a slip with the name of your child's book, sounds they need to practice and their next step will be highlighted each week.

Please read at least 3x a week and record this in your child's reading diary. You can start with 5 minutes reading at a time and build up your child's concentration and stamina over time. Books will be changed once a week and a reward will be given to those who have read 3x a week and it has been recorded in their reading diary.

Handwriting

We also use the Little Wandle programme to teach handwriting. Each letter has a formation phrase that we say as we write the letter. We will attach the Little Wandle handwriting and phonics guides for you to use at home. We teach lower case letters first and then we teach capital letters later in the year.

Questions and queries:

If you have any questions or queries and are unable to talk to your child's teacher directly, please email the office at office@berryhill.notts.sch.uk

We hope your child has a great time and settles in well to Foundation Stage 2.

Thank you,

The Foundation Stage 2 Team.