



Dear Parents/Carers

Firstly we'd like to say a huge 'Well Done!' to all the Reception children for their first term! It was fantastic! We hope you had a lovely restful break, the children deserved it.

Welcome back to the Spring term, where this year we are finding out about what lies '**Under The Sea**' which will be linked across all the curriculum areas. We've changed the topic to reflect our children's love of everything small world and to promote those magical adventures they will enjoy role playing as pirates! Children will be involved in a variety of different learning experiences based around ocean and pirate tales. Please visit our website where you will find a Curriculum map with recommended books for this term. You might have already seen our fantastic pirate ship in the outdoor area!

You should have already received a letter about our exciting trip this term. We are going to The Golden Hinde to learn more about what life is like on a pirate ship. We will also be sailing the Thames on the River Boat. How exciting! Please remember to sign up in the office if you can help us on our trips – we truly couldn't do it without the help of volunteers.

At the end of this half term we will also be holding a Pirate Banquet! On **Thursday 8th February (2.30pm - 3.30pm)** we cordially invite you to our Hearty Banquet. There will be a prize for best dressed child AND parent! So me hearties, prepare your eye patches and parrots for a jolly afternoon of eating cannonball cheese puffs and drinking Pirate Poison!

We will be holding a Parents Workshop on Phonics in EYFS on **Thursday 7th February from 9 – 9.30 am**. This will be a first come, first serve basis and the sign-up sheet will be up in the office from the week previous. This will be a fun, yet informative, session for parents to experience a phonics session first hand. This will help you to understand how phonics is being taught within our school and will give you lots of ideas about how you can best support your child at home.

The children in Reception will now have **P.E. on Friday for both Parsley and Sage**. Our amazing sports coaches will be teaching the children about rules and skills, encouraging both their gross and fine motor development. Please ensure PE kits are in school on a Monday and taken home every Friday to be washed. The weather is cold and children may do PE outside so please ensure you are sending in long trousers and jackets.

As always, we will remind and encourage children to read at home daily. Please also remind your child to remember to change their reading books and to show their teacher their reading record daily. Don't forget, you should write in this to inform your child's teacher how they are getting on with reading at home. Your child's teacher will read your comments and will be able to provide feedback if you have any questions related to reading.

www.whitehallparkschool.co.uk



Registered Address: Bellevue Place Education Trust, c/o Rutherford House School, 217 Balham High Road Balham, London SW17 7BQ

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On **Fridays** we send out home learning including maths, writing, phonics and a topic challenge. Every **Wednesday** children will bring this back to school for us to assess their understanding – please make sure this is being completed each week. Please remember that we share the fabulous learning with the rest of the class on a Friday – it is important that your child has something to share.

Don't forget that you can come in to see your child's learning and read with your child every Friday between 9 and 9.15am. This is also a great opportunity to fill in a WOW moment for your child – we love to hear all about the exciting learning your child does outside of school and this is our way of ensuring that your child's school book shows a holistic journey of their learning. Please ask your teacher if you would like to take some more WOW moment stickers home. You may wish to celebrate your child's first bike ride! Or your child being able to do their tie!

Please ensure that your child brings a **water bottle** to school daily as rehydration promotes concentration and learning. This should come in on a Monday and will be sent home on a Friday. We also remind you to have a set of labelled **spare clothes** in school in case of any accidents.

We are always looking for extra helpers in Reception. Please speak to Miss Powell or Miss Fynaut if you can volunteer any time to help our children learn. We appreciate volunteers who would like to read with children, or maybe you have a special talent that you would like to share with the children – knitting? Painting? Please let us know!

If you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact any of the Reception Staff.

Miss Powell, Miss Emma and Miss T (Reception Teachers)

Stella and Freija (Teaching Assistants)

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