   
**Reception Autumn Term 2020 Information**

What a wonderful start we have had to this new term in school. The children have been arriving at school with increasing confidence and are learning the new routines well; demonstrating developing independence. We are very proud of how well they are settling into school life. We have already tried a PE lesson, some phonics, funky fingers and number activities too and they haven’t had a full week in school yet!  
  
**Literacy**In literacy we will be assessing your child’s reading and writing ability and then planning and teaching their next steps. We will have daily phonic lessons to learn letter sounds and how to blend them together to read words, and Funky Finger inputs which provide opportunities to work on the children’s fine motor control including; cutting with scissors, pencil grip and control and letter formation. We will also be providing lots of opportunities for the children to mark-make in their child initiated learning.   
It is really important the children learn the sounds a letter makes (e.g. s like the start of snake) and write in lower case letters, not capitals except for the start of their name. We will spend lots of time this term developing their listening skills and language through storytelling, small world play and role play.  
  
Levelled reading books will be sent out by the beginning of October when we have completed our initial assessments. Once they have a book to share with you at home we ask that you record any book reading and reading activities, including learning sounds and tricky words, in your child’s Reading Record. The expectation is for parents to record in the book at least 4 times a week and staff will check the previous weeks reading in the Reading Record every week on a Monday. Your child will have some letters to learn at practise at home to support in class learning. Oxford Reading Owl have a guide to phonics for parents including how to pronounce each letter sound and how to blend sounds together to read words.(<https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/reading/learn-to-read-phonics/>)   
At the moment books will need to be ‘quarantined’ before being sent to a new household. Due to the quantity of books in school it means we can only change your child’s book **once a week**. Miss Croft’s class will have their books changed every Tuesday and Mrs Katene’s class will change their books every Thursday. To support reading you could play phonics games at home, listen to and chat about stories, use Lexia to support reading (<https://www.lexiacore5.com/>) and you can look at at levelled books online on Oxford Reading Owl (<https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/reading/free-ebooks/>) and Big Cat Books (<https://collins.co.uk/pages/big-cat-ebooks> ) - both have access to lots of books and sign up is free.   
  
  
  
**Maths**In maths we will be assessing your child’s confidence and knowledge of numbers and shape and will plan and teach their next steps. We will be learning to recognise and order numbers and naming 1 more and 1 less of numbers to 10, then 20 and beyond. We will also be naming and describing simple patterns and 2D shapes. We will be counting and reciting numbers, ensuring all children count with 1:1 correspondence, saying a number name after each object is counted. To support your child at home please ensure they are touching items when they are counting and ask ‘how many’ when they have finished. Count things around the home e.g. stairs, teddies, food and look at numbers in the environment - when you are out and about or around the home. Play games, puzzles, sing number songs or listen to number rhymes on the BBC Children’s Radio (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/school-radio/nursery-rhymes-songs-index/zhwdgwx?scrlybrkr> ).   
  
**Cornerstones Topic**Once the children have settled into school and understand the rules and routines we will start our topic ‘Why Do Squirrels Hide Their Nuts?’ from Cornerstones Curriculum that is used throughout the school. When we start the topic we will send home an overview and introductory letter that will offer ideas to support learning at home. Throughout the year we will be choosing topics based on the children’s interest and will provide an overview before we start each topic.

**Tapestry**Tapestry is your child’s online Learning Journey and is different to Parent Pay. You should have now received an email from noreply@tapestryjournal.com. If it is not in your inbox please also check your spam/junk mail box too. This is a link to set up your password to view your child’s learning journey as well as add your own photos and notes from home learning and wow moments like learning to ride a bike, reading, playing games etc. We will upload our observations – wow moments and key assessments – on the first Monday of each half term. This half term’s observations will be available on **Monday 2 November.** If you are unsure if you have received the email please email your class teacher.

**Outdoor Classroom**  
**After half term** we timetable Friday as our ‘Outdoor Classroom’ day. Our first day is **Friday 6 November.** During this day we use the outdoor classroom area next to nursery as well as other areas in the school grounds, such as the pond, the gardening area and school field. We apply aspects of the ‘forest schools’ approach to provide children with an alternative environment for their learning. ‘Forest schools’ was an idea originally developed in Denmark as one approach to Early Years education. It was recognised as having a positive impact on self-esteem, confidence and the ability to work in groups.   
  
The day remains the same each week and **every Friday after half term** children are not expected to wear school uniform but instead to come to school appropriately dressed for spending time outside (jeans, leggings, jogging trousers - maybe not best dress). The children will need waterproof/warm coats, and gloves and hats as it becomes colder. We go out in small groups for up to 45mins and Outdoor Classroom day happens whatever the weather!

To make Outdoor Classroom run smoothly for your child we would like to keep a pair of wellies for them in school. Please could you **send a pair of wellies into school, with your child’s name on, before Wednesday 4 November**. We will store these in school.   
  
  
  
  
**Key reminders**

***Backpacks****:* We are trying to limit the time children spend in the cloakroom and it would make the beginning and end of the day much simpler for them if they don't have backpacks to bring into school each day. All they need is a **water bottle** and **book pack** which are kept in the classroom and if they have a lunchbox these can be carried without the need to be put inside another bag. Of course, if you feel your child needs a change of clothes at school these could be in a bag inside their PE bag and left on their peg - although most children won't be needing this because we do have lots of spare clothes for an emergency.

***Book Bags:***Please send your child’s book bag into school every day. Levelled reading books will be sent out when we have completed our initial assessments. We will help your child change their school reading book once a week.

***Collecting at the end of the day:*** Please come over towards the teacher when collecting your child from school; this will enable us to pass on any urgent messages and ensure your child reaches you safely. If there is anyone else picking your child up from school please let your class teacher know in the morning or ring the school.

***Clothing****:* Please ensure **all items are named** including PE kit and shoes .

***Water Bottles*:** Please ensure your child has a bottle of water (not juice) in the classroom for drinking throughout the day. They may have juice in their lunchbox but no fizzy drinks.

***Packed Lunches:*** We have peanut allergies in school so we ask that no children have nuts or nut based snacks/spreads in their lunchboxes. We are a healthy school and ask that children do not bring in chocolates or sweets for lunch.  
  
***School Dinners:*** Please ensure you book your child’s school dinner by Friday midnight for the following week. If your child does not eat enough school lunch we will send a note home to inform you.

***Medication*:** Please let us know if your child has to take any prescribed medication at school. There is a green form for you to fill in so that we can administer it. We can only give prescribed medication and the medication must have the prescription label on. Please phone the school if your child is off sick. If you have a medical appointment please let the office know.

***Birthdays*:** If it is your child’s birthday they can come to school in their home clothes. Please do not bring cake/sweets.

***Toys*:** We ask that toys/valuables are not brought into school.

***Parent helpers*:** We would normally love Parent Helpers but unfortunately, we cannot have parents into school at the moment.

***Junk Materials*:** We are desperate for yogurt pots, small boxes (not cereal size boxes) and cardboard tubes (not toilet rolls). Please ensure they are clean because the children use these to build models with. If you have any please bring them in a **bag on a Friday** so we can leave them over the weekend in ‘quarantine’ for building fantastic models the following week.

**Key dates for the Autumn term**Friday 16 October Break up for 2 week half term holiday  
Monday 2 November Return to school  
Friday 6 November Outdoor Classroom starts (every Friday)  
Friday 20 December End of term  
 Thank you for your support,  
 Miss Croft, Mrs Katene & Mrs Hawkins

Miss Croft’s Class: [classrnc@littletown.devon.sch.uk](mailto:classrnc@littletown.devon.sch.uk) Mrs Katene & Mrs Hawkins: [classrnkmh@littletown.devon.sch.uk](mailto:classrnkmh@littletown.devon.sch.uk)

**Miss Croft Class - Outline Timetable**

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| **9.00  Line Up** | **9.00-10.20** | | | **10.20 – 10.35** | **10.35 – 11.45** | | | **11.45- 12.45** | **12.45 - 3.15** | | | | | | **3.15** |
| **Mon** | **Wash Hands**  Self-reg  Settling Activities | Literacy (including Lexia)  or Maths | **Wash Hands  Story** | Snack  &  Playtime | **Wash Hands** | Phonics & Funky Fingers | **Wash Hands** | Lunch  (eat then play) | **Wash Hands** | News Assembly | Child Initiated Learning | PE | Story | **Wash Hands** | Home |
| **Tue** | Literacy (including Lexia)  or Maths | **Wash Hands  Story** | **Wash Hands** | Phonics & Funky Fingers | **Wash Hands** | **Wash Hands** | Jigsaw (PSED) | Child Initiated Learning *Teacher Play, Obs, Challenge & Scaffold* | | Story | **Wash Hands** | Home |
| **Wed** | Literacy (including Lexia)  or Maths | **Wash Hands  Story** | **Wash Hands** | PE | **Wash Hands** | **Wash Hands** | Head Assembly | Child Initiated Learning *Teacher Play, Obs, Challenge & Scaffold* | | Story | **Wash Hands** | Home |
| **Thurs** | Literacy (including Lexia)  or Maths | **Wash Hands  Story** | **Wash Hands** | Phonics & Funky Fingers | **Wash Hands** | **Wash Hands** | Jigsaw Assembly | Child Initiated Learning *Teacher Play, Obs, Challenge & Scaffold* | | Story | **Wash Hands** | Home |
| **Fri** | Literacy (including Lexia)  or Maths | **Wash Hands  Story** | **Wash Hands** | Phonics & Funky Fingers | **Wash Hands** | **Wash Hands** | Celebration  Assembly | Child Initiated Learning *Teacher Play, Obs, Challenge & Scaffold* | Music | Story | **Wash Hands** | Home |

**Mrs Katene & Mrs Hawkins Class - Outline Timetable**

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| **8.50  Line Up** | **8.50-10.00** | | | **10 - 10.15** | **10.15– 11.45** | | | **11.45- 12.45** | **12.45 - 3.05** | | | | | | **3.05** |
| **Mon** | **Wash Hands**  Self-reg  Settling Activities | Phonics & Funky Fingers | **Wash Hands  Story** | Snack  &  Playtime | **Wash Hands** | Literacy (including Lexia)  or Maths | **Wash Hands** | Lunch  (play then eat) | **Wash Hands** | News Assembly | PE | Child Initiated Learning | Story | **Wash Hands** | Home |
| **Tue** | Phonics & Funky Fingers | **Wash Hands  Story** | **Wash Hands** | Literacy (including Lexia)  or Maths | **Wash Hands** | **Wash Hands** | Jigsaw (PSED) | Child Initiated Learning *Teacher Play, Obs, Challenge & Scaffold* | | Story | **Wash Hands** | Home |
| **Wed** | PE | **Wash Hands  Story** | **Wash Hands** | Literacy (including Lexia)  or Maths | **Wash Hands** | **Wash Hands** | Head Assembly | Child Initiated Learning *Teacher Play, Obs, Challenge & Scaffold* | | Story | **Wash Hands** | Home |
| **Thurs** | Phonics & Funky Fingers | **Wash Hands  Story** | **Wash Hands** | Literacy (including Lexia)  or Maths | **Wash Hands** | **Wash Hands** | Jigsaw Assembly | Child Initiated Learning *Teacher Play, Obs, Challenge & Scaffold* | | Story | **Wash Hands** | Home |
| **Fri** | Phonics & Funky Fingers | **Wash Hands  Story** | **Wash Hands** | Literacy (including Lexia)  or Maths | **Wash Hands** | **Wash Hands** | Celebration  Assembly | Child Initiated Learning *Teacher Play, Obs, Challenge & Scaffold* | Music | Story | **Wash Hands** | Home |