

September 2024

Dear families,

Welcome to Blue Whale and Tiger Class! The whole team is really looking forward to sharing the year ahead with you and your child. We plan to offer an exciting, stimulating and inspiring learning experience, and can't wait to hear the ideas your children bring into the classroom too – we learn from them as much as they learn from us!

### Settling into school life

This half-term, we will focus on settling the children into the new routines of school life, and making sure they feel comfortable and confident in their new environment. There are lots of new routines for children to become familiar with: from being in school for the whole day, to having lunch at school, to using new toilets independently, to making new friends and, of course, getting used to spending time away from home.

This term we will be learning around our Big Question: Who do you think you are? This will allow us to learn all about the children's interests, families and friends. The children will create their own self portrait, and this will be displayed in the classroom. This will develop children's fine motor and creative skills. It also touches on their personal, social and emotional development recognising we all look different, celebrating difference and diversity. We would like to [request a family photo](#) for your child to share with the class and add to Our Families Tree display.

The children will also be learning new rhymes and about their senses. They will explore questions such as: What are their senses? How does each sense function? What experiences do senses give us? What would it be like to not have one of our senses?

In maths we will focus on building up numbers slowly, so children gain a deep understanding of them and how they are composed. The children will also be counting and discussing larger numbers in routines such as lining up. We will be learning about how measurement and pattern are part of our everyday lives, as well as, where we can find them.

### Spare clothes

In Reception we will be busy getting messy and having lots of fun, so we are asking parents to bring in [spare clothes](#) in a bag. Which can be left on your child's coat-peg. This should include:

- A white polo top
- A pair of black bottoms
- Spare socks
- A pair of [black](#) trainers / plimsolls / shoes

- Spare underwear



**Names in clothes** – Please can we remind you to name every item of school clothing your child has. You can write it with a pen or attach an iron-on label on their jumpers, trousers, skirts, top, outdoor jackets, and spare clothes. We are supporting children to be responsible for their clothes but without a name it can be difficult to find again.

### **Here are important days of our week:**

**Tuesday** – At Mulberry Wood Wharf we aim to create a love of reading culture for all of our pupils. Each week the children will borrow a book from our reading corner. Please make sure your child has a book bag or a bag with them. The children would usually take the book for a whole week and return and change their book every Monday. Please make sure you return the book on this day. Please let one of the team know if you misplace or a book becomes damaged so that it can be replaced in the library.

**Thursday** – The children will be having PE with a sports coach each week. The children will not need PE clothing at this point of the year. The coach will be developing the children’s coordination and gross motor skills.

**Friday** - Every Friday we will cook something as a class. Cooking is a fun and engaging activity that develops children's communication and mathematical skills. Dietary requirements, medical needs and healthy choices are always considered when choosing a recipe to follow.

**Friday-** We have our Fantastic Friday assemblies where we celebrate what has happened in the Early Years. Your child will get a chance to be star of the week, take our Travel Tigers, Blue Whales' home, and get a certificate for demonstrating values and virtues that are important to Mulberry Wood Wharf Primary School.

### **Phonics**

At Mulberry Wood Wharf we use the scheme **Read Write Inc** to teach phonics. During the next couple of weeks, we will be assessing the children on their reading and writing abilities so that we can plan our teaching around their needs. At this age, there will be a range of abilities, and this is absolutely fine. Children learn at different rate and through different means. We will be in touch about the phonics books the children will be taking home in a couple of weeks.

When learning to read your child will be learning to recognise and read by sight some key words. Here are examples of words that we will be focusing on this half term will be:

- at, a, can, dad, mad, mat, sad, sat, is, and, the, on, it, not, pin, pan, dog, cat.

There are many engaging and interactive ways to practice learning these words by sight, such as:

- Playing Snap
- I Spy by placing the word cards around the room

- Hiding the words around the house and reading them when found
- Musical Sight Words Game – see [here](#) for how to play

We want the children to be able to read these words by sight and still have fun. By learning key words by sight, your child will become a more confident reader. Please speak to one of the reception team or visit Read Write Inc's [website](#) to learn more about the scheme and other fun activities to do when learning to read.

We will be holding a phonics workshop in the next half term on Friday 15th November 2024. We will share more information about the upcoming workshop soon.

### Reception Baseline Assessment

The Reception Baseline Assessment is an interactive and practical assessment that creates a starting point for measuring the progress schools make with their pupils. The assessment used to support children in their learning. The areas they are assessed on are early literacy, communication, language and mathematics. If you would like to further information, please visit see the parent information pamphlet here: [Reception Baseline Assessment](#).

### School Trips

School trips are a wonderful opportunity for children to learn about the world around them and their community. This half term we will be going on a local trip to a café. We will in touch soon about the details and date for our trips to the café.

### Healthy bodies, healthy minds.

A gentle reminder that healthy children need:

- Plenty of sleep: 10-12 hours every night. This means bedtime at 7pm!
- Fresh fruit and vegetables every day.
- Drink lots of water.
- Clean, healthy teeth – your child must brush their teeth every morning and every night before bed to stay healthy

**PLEASE ENSURE YOUR CHILD HAS A WATER BOTTLE WITH THEM EACH DAY** so they can drink freely throughout the morning.

### Bedtime

When children get the right amount of sleep (10 - 12 hours each night), they are much fresher for the day, and it has a positive impact on their behaviour and learning. Children in Reception should go to bed around 7-7.30pm. Try to stick to this routine even at weekends so your child will develop good sleep habits.

### Home Learning

Home Learning is an effective tool used to support the learning in the classroom and to help children develop into independent learners. In EYFS children learn through experiences, hands on learning and play. Home Learning will focus on developing and supporting communication/language skills, understanding of the world and physical development. Home Learning will be set as a project where the children will be able to learn or create something to

share with their classmates. Home Learning can be done throughout the half term and shared on Tapestry or brought into school to share with the class. This half term's home learning will be:

- **All About Me Box/poster** – create a box/poster that contains small objects, information and pictures that share your interests and help us to get to know you better. While making the project spend time discussing your likes, dislikes, favourite experiences, interests, their family and friends. By spending time discussing these topics while making your project, you will be able to confidently speak about your project as you share it with the class.

### **Reading**

**'The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go' — Dr. Seuss**

One of the most important things you can do with your child is to **Read, read, read!** This week the children have loved hearing a range of stories and singing many nursery rhymes. Please take 10 minutes to read with them every night. This is so important for your child – it will help to develop their communication, language, and concentration skills, and fosters curiosity and creativity.

We will be introducing 'Give me 10', a 10-minute session at the start of the day where parents can come and read with their child, details to follow shortly.

### **Learning Journeys – Tapestry**

In Early Years we are using an online learning journal called Tapestry to highlight our children's amazing learning. We will upload photos, videos, and comments of your child's learning in school to their learning journals, so please enjoy looking at the photos and videos. Also, feel free to add your own photos if you wish, it is always wonderful to see the learning that goes on outside of school too. Details will be sent out next week.

Here is wishing you and your family the best start to the new academic year! If you have any questions about anything, please do not hesitate to ask us!

Lindsay, Marwah Rahena and Zaheeda