



William Fletcher School

Foundation Class - Autumn Newsletter

'where everyone counts'

8th September 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the Foundation Stage Class at William Fletcher School. We will be working together to create a caring, fun and educational environment for your children. It is lovely to see the children arrive in their smart uniforms ready to spend a day in school. Initially we will be observing the children as they settle in to everyday routines, making new friends and carry out initial assessments. Once these are completed the children will then be organised into two registration classes, 'Robin Class' with Mrs Bartrum and 'Wren Class' with Mrs Haynes who has joined our team this year. Both classes will be supported by our class Teaching Assistant Mrs Weeks.

Early Years Curriculum

The children's learning will embrace the seven areas as outlined in the EYFS (Early Years Foundation Stage - 'Development Matters'). There are three 'Prime' areas: PSED (Personal, Social and Emotional Development), C & L (Communication and Language), and Physical Development. These areas underpin four 'Specific' areas which are Mathematics, Understanding The World, Literacy (Reading and Writing), and Expressive Arts and Design. At this stage of the year there is a great emphasis on the first area of learning PSED, laying down ground rules/school rules, setting up routines, understanding expectations of acceptable behaviour, turn taking, sharing, learning to respect others, politeness and manners, encouraging independence and making the correct choices. The children are already very aware that positive attitudes and learning will earn them a sticker or a place on the special 'Gold Cloud'! It is very helpful to us when this is reinforced by parents outside school.

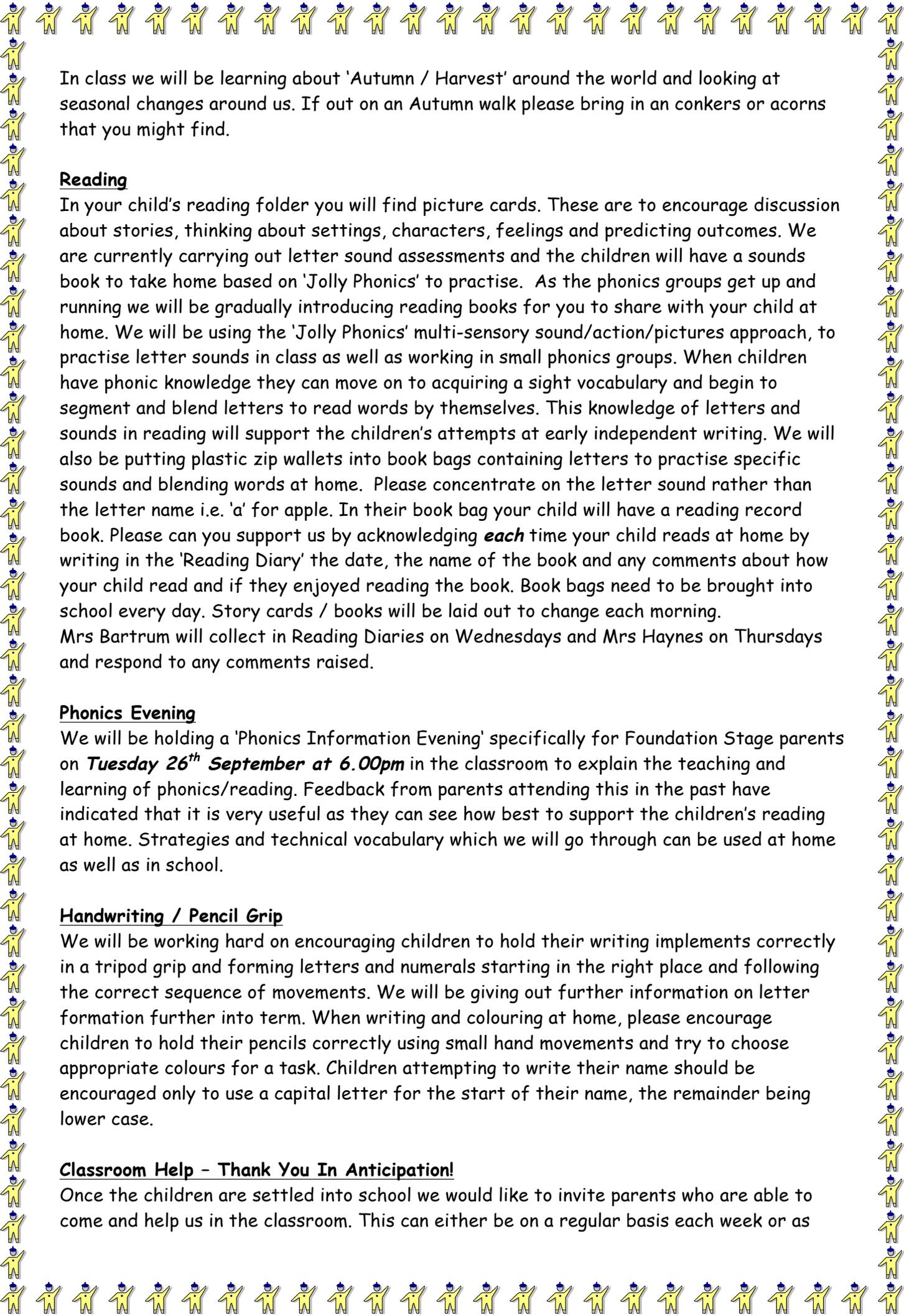
Term 1 Topic 'Marvellous Me!'

Our learning this term will be based around the theme of 'Ourselves'. As well as learning about body parts we will be thinking about healthy living and the factors which influence this. This will be reflected in all seven Areas of Learning in the Foundation Stage Curriculum. Our weekly planning will also be influenced by the children's individual interests through daily observations as well as adult initiated activities.

To start the academic year we are doing some activities based on the work of Roald Dahl as is the rest of the school. This is to celebrate his 100th birthday. We have been focusing on Charlie and The Chocolate Factory in Foundation Stage.

Harvest Celebration

On Monday 25th September we will be taking the children to St Bartholomew's Church for Harvest Festival. We will walk to the church leaving school at 9.30 am as our service is at 10.00 am. Any adults who are able to help accompany the children walking to the church, please let us know. We should get back to school around 11.00 am.



In class we will be learning about 'Autumn / Harvest' around the world and looking at seasonal changes around us. If out on an Autumn walk please bring in an conkers or acorns that you might find.

Reading

In your child's reading folder you will find picture cards. These are to encourage discussion about stories, thinking about settings, characters, feelings and predicting outcomes. We are currently carrying out letter sound assessments and the children will have a sounds book to take home based on 'Jolly Phonics' to practise. As the phonics groups get up and running we will be gradually introducing reading books for you to share with your child at home. We will be using the 'Jolly Phonics' multi-sensory sound/action/pictures approach, to practise letter sounds in class as well as working in small phonics groups. When children have phonic knowledge they can move on to acquiring a sight vocabulary and begin to segment and blend letters to read words by themselves. This knowledge of letters and sounds in reading will support the children's attempts at early independent writing. We will also be putting plastic zip wallets into book bags containing letters to practise specific sounds and blending words at home. Please concentrate on the letter sound rather than the letter name i.e. 'a' for apple. In their book bag your child will have a reading record book. Please can you support us by acknowledging *each* time your child reads at home by writing in the 'Reading Diary' the date, the name of the book and any comments about how your child read and if they enjoyed reading the book. Book bags need to be brought into school every day. Story cards / books will be laid out to change each morning.

Mrs Bartrum will collect in Reading Diaries on Wednesdays and Mrs Haynes on Thursdays and respond to any comments raised.

Phonics Evening

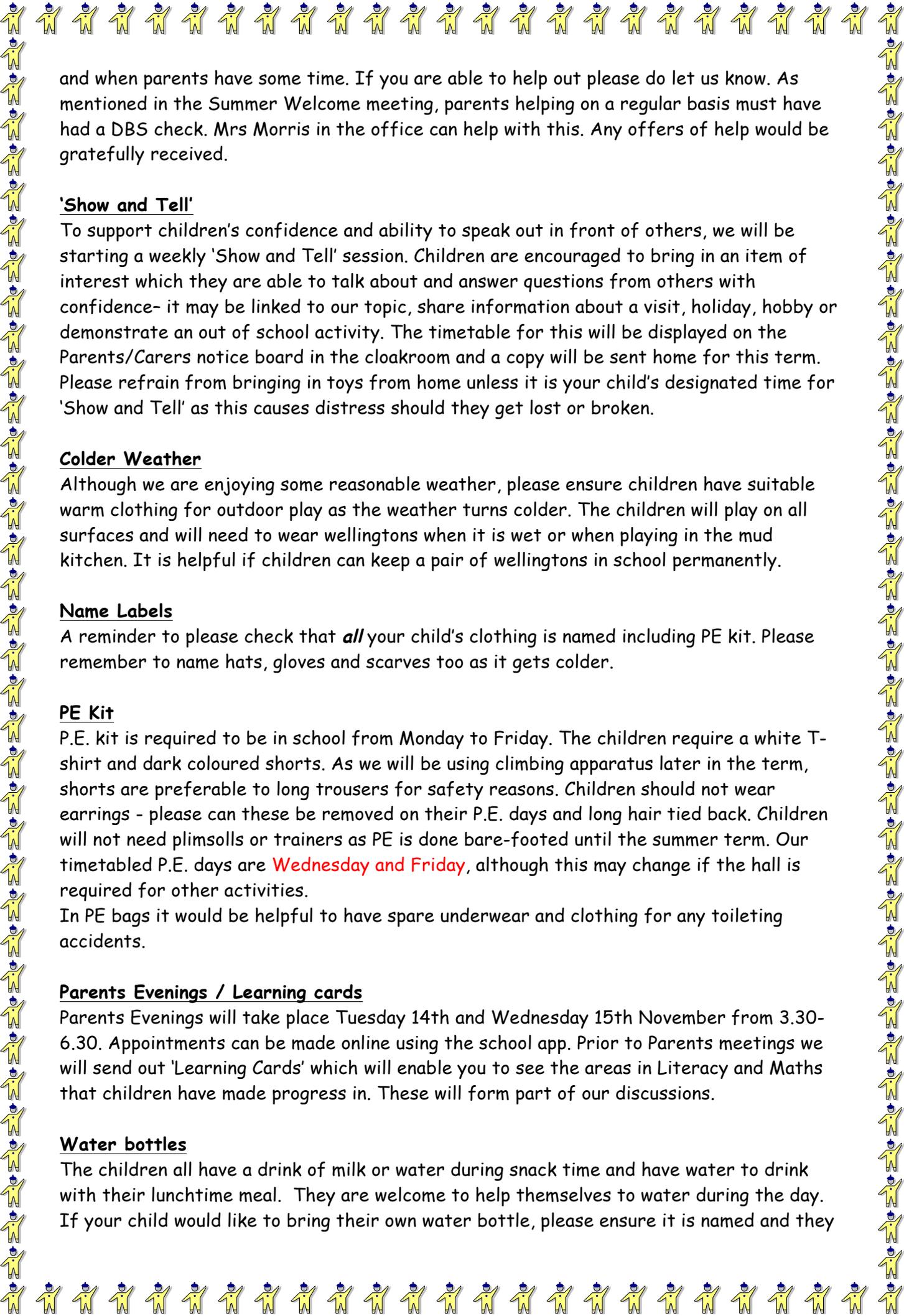
We will be holding a 'Phonics Information Evening' specifically for Foundation Stage parents on **Tuesday 26th September at 6.00pm** in the classroom to explain the teaching and learning of phonics/reading. Feedback from parents attending this in the past have indicated that it is very useful as they can see how best to support the children's reading at home. Strategies and technical vocabulary which we will go through can be used at home as well as in school.

Handwriting / Pencil Grip

We will be working hard on encouraging children to hold their writing implements correctly in a tripod grip and forming letters and numerals starting in the right place and following the correct sequence of movements. We will be giving out further information on letter formation further into term. When writing and colouring at home, please encourage children to hold their pencils correctly using small hand movements and try to choose appropriate colours for a task. Children attempting to write their name should be encouraged only to use a capital letter for the start of their name, the remainder being lower case.

Classroom Help - Thank You In Anticipation!

Once the children are settled into school we would like to invite parents who are able to come and help us in the classroom. This can either be on a regular basis each week or as



and when parents have some time. If you are able to help out please do let us know. As mentioned in the Summer Welcome meeting, parents helping on a regular basis must have had a DBS check. Mrs Morris in the office can help with this. Any offers of help would be gratefully received.

'Show and Tell'

To support children's confidence and ability to speak out in front of others, we will be starting a weekly 'Show and Tell' session. Children are encouraged to bring in an item of interest which they are able to talk about and answer questions from others with confidence- it may be linked to our topic, share information about a visit, holiday, hobby or demonstrate an out of school activity. The timetable for this will be displayed on the Parents/Carers notice board in the cloakroom and a copy will be sent home for this term. Please refrain from bringing in toys from home unless it is your child's designated time for 'Show and Tell' as this causes distress should they get lost or broken.

Colder Weather

Although we are enjoying some reasonable weather, please ensure children have suitable warm clothing for outdoor play as the weather turns colder. The children will play on all surfaces and will need to wear wellingtons when it is wet or when playing in the mud kitchen. It is helpful if children can keep a pair of wellingtons in school permanently.

Name Labels

A reminder to please check that **all** your child's clothing is named including PE kit. Please remember to name hats, gloves and scarves too as it gets colder.

PE Kit

P.E. kit is required to be in school from Monday to Friday. The children require a white T-shirt and dark coloured shorts. As we will be using climbing apparatus later in the term, shorts are preferable to long trousers for safety reasons. Children should not wear earrings - please can these be removed on their P.E. days and long hair tied back. Children will not need plimsolls or trainers as PE is done bare-footed until the summer term. Our timetabled P.E. days are **Wednesday and Friday**, although this may change if the hall is required for other activities.

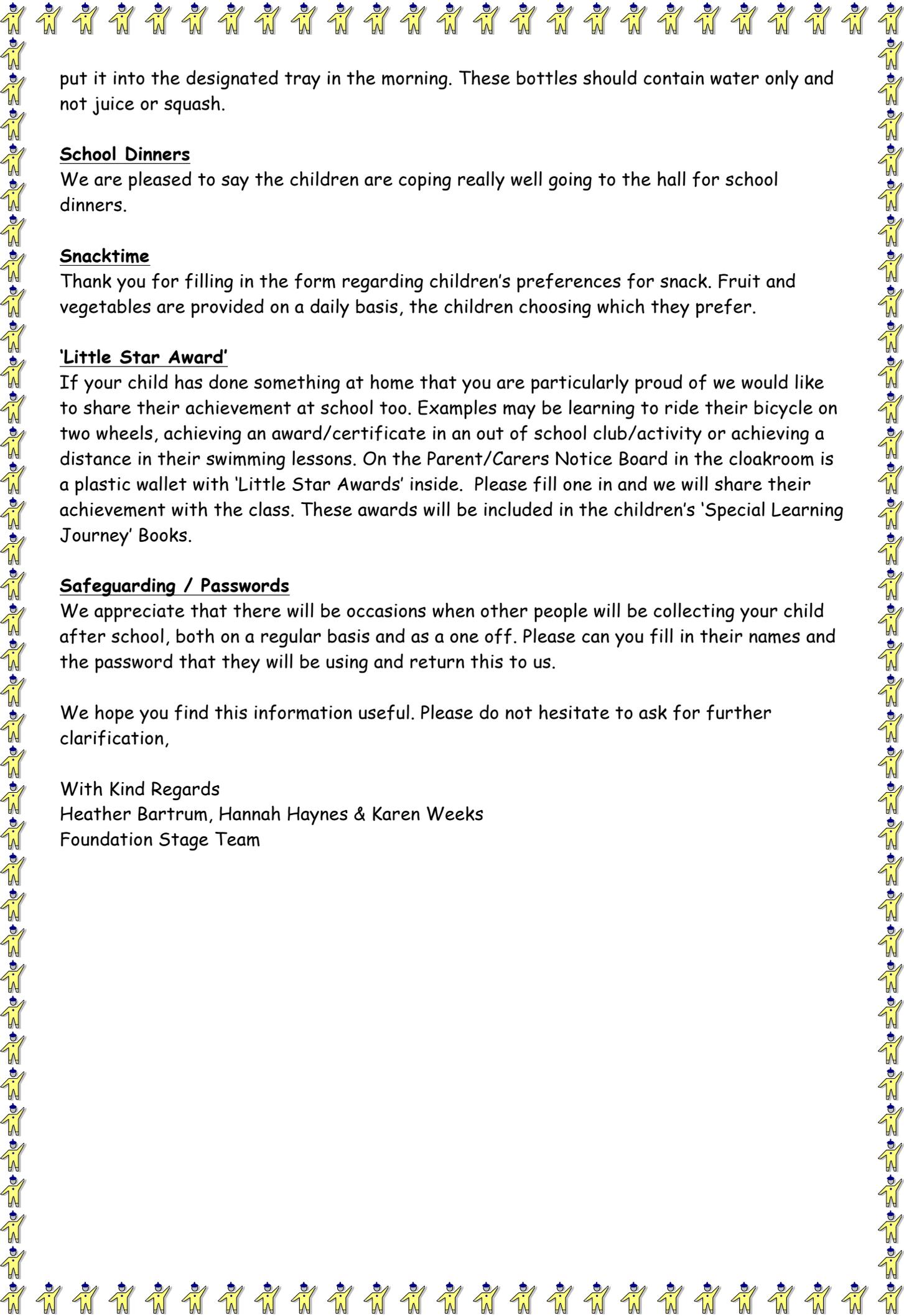
In PE bags it would be helpful to have spare underwear and clothing for any toileting accidents.

Parents Evenings / Learning cards

Parents Evenings will take place Tuesday 14th and Wednesday 15th November from 3.30-6.30. Appointments can be made online using the school app. Prior to Parents meetings we will send out 'Learning Cards' which will enable you to see the areas in Literacy and Maths that children have made progress in. These will form part of our discussions.

Water bottles

The children all have a drink of milk or water during snack time and have water to drink with their lunchtime meal. They are welcome to help themselves to water during the day. If your child would like to bring their own water bottle, please ensure it is named and they



put it into the designated tray in the morning. These bottles should contain water only and not juice or squash.

School Dinners

We are pleased to say the children are coping really well going to the hall for school dinners.

Snacktime

Thank you for filling in the form regarding children's preferences for snack. Fruit and vegetables are provided on a daily basis, the children choosing which they prefer.

'Little Star Award'

If your child has done something at home that you are particularly proud of we would like to share their achievement at school too. Examples may be learning to ride their bicycle on two wheels, achieving an award/certificate in an out of school club/activity or achieving a distance in their swimming lessons. On the Parent/Carers Notice Board in the cloakroom is a plastic wallet with 'Little Star Awards' inside. Please fill one in and we will share their achievement with the class. These awards will be included in the children's 'Special Learning Journey' Books.

Safeguarding / Passwords

We appreciate that there will be occasions when other people will be collecting your child after school, both on a regular basis and as a one off. Please can you fill in their names and the password that they will be using and return this to us.

We hope you find this information useful. Please do not hesitate to ask for further clarification,

With Kind Regards

Heather Bartrum, Hannah Haynes & Karen Weeks
Foundation Stage Team