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November 6th 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

Morning Challenges

The children have been working brilliantly in small groups during 'Morning Challenges' and are familiar with the expectations of how to work and behave during this focussed teaching and learning time. In previous years, Bears parents/carers have supported the children during 'Morning Challenges' and we are now keen to invite you to do the same this year.

You are invited to sign up to be in the classroom (daily) between 9.00am and 9.45am to support a small group of children with an activity. This allows the children to access the activity at a greater depth than if they were working independently. You will not necessarily be working with the group your child is in.

There will be a sign – up sheet available in the classroom, please do find a date you can join us. We can accommodate up to 2 adults each day. Younger siblings are welcome.

Phonics/letter sound cards

Bears have been excited this week as we have begun to teach individual letter sounds during our discreet phonics sessions. Your child will have brought home a card containing the letter sounds we have explored this week. Please cut up the card and store them in the plastic wallets you have in your child's book bag.

These letter cards can be used to recap sounds taught in school and as the number of cards increases you can use them to build words!

Reading books

We will shortly be sending home reading books. All children will start with 'narrative' books – picture books with no text. This is the opportunity for children to develop their story telling skills and explore story language. When they are ready, children will move on to 'high-repetition books' – an opportunity to count words, explore that print carries meaning and use the pictures to tell the story. When we have taught a good number of letter sounds, children will bring home phonics based books – an opportunity to blend words (to read) using the sounds they have been taught!

Many thanks for your continued support. Please do not hesitate to ask if you have any questions.

Best wishes The Bears Team