

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back after the Christmas holidays. We hope you have all had a restful break after a busy autumn term.

The daily routine for the children remains much the same as last term. Children will arrive through the gates from 8:45am, which will close promptly at 8:55am to ensure learning can begin at 9:00am. Lateness can be disruptive to learning, so we thank you for your support in ensuring children arrive on time.

Please ensure that children bring a named water bottle and their school book bag each day, containing their reading record and message book. Snack is provided free of charge, though children may bring a piece of fruit from home if they prefer. School lunches are free this year and must be booked by 8:00am on the morning of each day.

Please ensure we are informed of any changes to your child's usual collection arrangements, including if they are being collected by a different adult or not travelling home on the school bus.

All visitors, parents and carers must continue to report to the main reception entrance for any queries, early collections or messages. KS1 staff will not answer the pod front door in order to avoid interruptions to teaching and for safeguarding reasons.

PE and Uniform

Our PE days for this half term will be **Wednesday and Friday afternoons**. Children may attend school in their PE kit on these days, as well as on days when they have a sports after-school club.

PE kit consists of:

- Black tracksuit bottoms or shorts
- White t-shirt
- Navy PE hoodie

Children may wear black trainers every day as we regularly make use of the running track. On non-PE days, children should wear full school uniform. Further uniform information can be found here:

<https://www.winkleigh.devon.sch.uk/winkleigh/parent-information/uniform>

Curriculum and Learning

Once the children arrive in class, they will store their belongings before beginning their morning task. Each day includes guided reading, maths, phonics and English sessions before lunch. In the afternoons, children will take part in the wider curriculum, including Geography, PSHE, Science, PE, Music, Art, Design & Technology and Computing.

Subject information pages can be found on the school website, and further details about our curriculum aims and vision can be found here:

<https://www.winkleigh.devon.sch.uk/page/?title=Our+Curriculum+in+Detail&pid=191>

Please ensure children have a **coat** in school every day, as we make regular use of our outdoor spaces. In warmer weather, children should also bring sun hats and have sunscreen applied before school. Children should use **book bags** rather than rucksacks, as we do not have space in the cloakrooms for larger bags.

Safety at Drop-off and Collection

At the start and end of the day, please use the pavement and supervise children carefully, as buses are arriving and departing. Children should not play on the grass bank or in the staff car park.

Reading and Handwriting

Children will continue to bring home a reading book, which will be changed weekly. Please ensure that reading books and Polar Bear reading records are in book bags every day, as children read regularly in school. We kindly ask that books are returned promptly, as we have noticed a decline in Year 1 reading book stock.

Big Cat e-books will be uploaded on a Tuesday (starting on 6th January). These are the guided reading books your child has been reading in class. Please do let us know if you have any difficulties accessing your child's online library.

We will also continue to send home a 'love of reading' (library) book every Friday. This is a sharing book – your child may enjoy talking about the pictures, having a go at reading parts of it, or listening as it is read to them. The aim of this book is to foster enjoyment and a positive attitude towards reading. In addition, all children will take home a decodable reading book each week (on a Wednesday). This book is carefully matched to a similar level as the guided reading book they are reading in class, to support confidence and fluency.

Class spellings and phonics information will be sent home each half term with a weekly breakdown. Any support with this at home is greatly appreciated. We also continue daily handwriting practice in school to support our transition to cursive writing using the Letter-join programme. Regular reading at home remains one of the most important ways to support your child's progress across the curriculum. Reading records will be checked on your child's guided reading day.

Trips and Enrichment

We are looking forward to our visit to Exmoor Zoo in March, which will enhance the children's learning about animals and link to the Science curriculum. Further information will be sent out closer to the time.

Wraparound Care

We are pleased to continue offering wraparound care.

- Early Birds Club runs from 7:45–8:45am, including breakfast
- All Sorts Club runs from 3:30–6:00pm

Both clubs can be booked via the school gateway and offer a variety of activities throughout the week.

Safeguarding and Wellbeing

Safeguarding remains a top priority. Our Designated Safeguarding Lead is Mrs V Fenemore, with deputies Mr W Slocombe and Mrs D Rowcliffe. Any safeguarding concerns should be reported via admin@winkleigh.devon.sch.uk.

Nationally, there has been an increase in children accessing the internet independently through devices such as phones, gaming consoles and tablets. Unfortunately, this can sometimes expose children to inappropriate content. Please continue to monitor and support your child's online use at home.

We promote key mental health values including kindness, resilience and open communication. Staff are trained to recognise early signs of emotional difficulty. Our Designated Mental Health Lead, Mrs Rowcliffe, supports pupils and families through Early Help and can also be contacted via admin@winkleigh.devon.sch.uk.

Communication

If you have any questions or would like to share anything about your child, please don't hesitate to get in touch – we are always happy to help. The best way to contact us is via admin@winkleigh.devon.sch.uk, and we aim to respond within 48 hours. Message books are also used regularly in Key Stage One and Early Years to support communication.

Teachers are not available at drop-off or collection times as we are busy supporting children during these transitions. If you would like to arrange a telephone call or a meeting with me, please contact admin and we will arrange a convenient time.

We look forward to a happy and successful spring term.

Kind regards,

Mrs Roberts