



Welcome to 'Big School'! I hope your children are as excited about starting school as we are about having them here!

The first couple of weeks will be focused on getting to know your children by playing with them and carrying out observations. We are using an online Learning Journey – Tapestry, which most of you are familiar with. If you haven't got a Tapestry account yet please sign up as soon as possible – we have started adding photos to the children's individual learning journals already! We will also be using Tapestry to give you information about school routines over the next few weeks so please make sure you check regularly and give us a 'like' so we know you have seen the posts 😊

We have already enjoyed looking at some of the special bags and the children have chatted happily about the contents. We don't like to rush through the bags so please bear with us if yours is at school for a while! Our Term 1 topic is 'Marvellous me' and will focus on settling into school life, making new friends and thinking about how amazing we all are! The topic in Term 2 will be 'It's Party Time' and we will be learning about different celebrations in many cultures and countries. You will be able to access a 'topic web' and 'knowledge organiser' on the school website and Tapestry at the beginning of each long term (September, after Easter and after Christmas)

Our door is always open if you have any worries or just want to ask us a question.

Mrs Boswell, Miss Kister and Mrs Bell 😊

### *Phonics*

We invite you to a phonics and reading workshop on **Tuesday 4th October at 3.15pm** to outline how we teach phonics at school, give an overview of the phonics scheme we use and how you can help at home. We have already started teaching phonics and the children have been bringing homework sheets home! Please sit with your child and have a go at the letters but don't worry if they aren't keen to do it – it's all new to them. Please send any attempts back to school as children will receive house points for their efforts!

Our Christian Value this term is "**Caring**". We will be talking about how we care for each other, and for ourselves. This will focus on positive mental health and good hygiene habits (handwashing, using tissues etc.)

### Routines

Focused teaching of PE will be on a Tuesday. Please make sure ALL PE kit is named and kept in school.

#### Den (Library)

Cherry Class will visit the den on a Friday afternoon. Please send your child's library book back each week so they can swap it.

#### Read Write Inc Phonics

We will start teaching the sounds on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> September. Please check book bags daily for handwriting homework sheets and send them back to school for House Points! Children will need their wellies and a suitable coat at school every day as we play on the field in all weathers. Your child will bring home 3 reading books at a time. Reading books should be in school daily and will be changed once a week. We will change books that have been read at home so please make sure you record in the yellow reading record. Reading is a vital life skill and

in Reception, phonics/reading is a focus area. Please hear your child read at home at least 3 times a week to support their learning at school.

#### Health and Safety

To help keep children safe, could you please refrain from letting your children play on the playground equipment (castle, trim trail and bikes) before and after school.