

Compton Church of England Primary
School

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Foundation Stage Termly Learning Letter Autumn 2021

Dear Everyone,

Welcome to Compton C of E Primary School. At the start of the autumn, winter and summer term you will receive a termly learning letter from us which will give you lots of information on the things we are doing over the forthcoming term. Please keep the letter safe so that you can refer back to it in the future.

It was lovely to meet you all at the virtual home visit and we hope that you gained as much from the meeting as we did. As things begin to return to the 'new normal' we are hoping that this year there will be more opportunities for you to come into the Foundation Stage Unit. We hope you enjoyed looking around during the induction week and have a bit more of an insight into how we have organised the environment this term.

Drop off and collection

Your child will need to be at school in time for the start of the school day which for Foundation Stage is **8.45am**. At **8.45 am** the big blue gate, nearest the Foundation Stage garden, will be opened and your child will be greeted by a member of staff who will then escort them into school via the foundation garden. At the end of the school day you will need to wait behind the carpark wall in time for **3.15 pm**. Please note that the children, from across the school, who bring their bikes and scooters will be dismissed from the same place at **3:15pm**. The Foundation Stage children will stand with their class and will be dismissed once parents have been identified. Please remember that the safety of the children is our utmost priority, please do not call to your child or distract them if they haven't been dismissed by the class teacher. We know from past experience that organising the children with their belongings and getting them to form an orderly queue at both ends of the day is no easy task.

Notes and messages

Each morning there will be a member of staff on the gate ready to greet your child as they come into school. If you have a message or any correspondence that you would like to draw our attention to, please complete a message slip from the box left just outside of the gate and hand it to the member of staff on the door. All messages will be recorded and passed on to the relevant person, for example you may want to let us know that somebody we haven't already met is collecting your child from school. Please note that if messages aren't written down and handed to us, we cannot guarantee that they will reach the relevant member of staff.

Water bottles and other belongings

It is important that your child is able to organise their own belongings. Over the next few weeks please ensure that your child is able to identify their own sweatshirt, coat and shoes as these are the items most commonly removed during the school day. All items must be clearly labelled with your child's name and we recommend that you purchase sticky name tags that can be easily applied to every item of clothing. Your child will need to be able to pull the arms through the correct way on their coats and sweatshirts and put their shoes on the correct feet. Water bottles need to be filled at home daily and sent into school with your child. Please do not put the bottle into your child's book bag as they tend to leak over the books. Your child's book bag will also need to come in on a daily basis so that we always have access to their home/school diary and their reading books when they are distributed later in the month.

Lunch Routine

As you are already aware all infant children are entitled to a free hot dinner each day. Every Friday you will receive an email from the school office asking you to complete your child's menu choices for the following week or alternatively indicate if they are having a packed lunch from home. If we do not receive your email choices the children will be allocated a surplus meal but it may not be one that they have chosen, so please ensure that you reply to the email before the start of the school day on Monday each week!

Reading

Towards the end of the month, the children will be allocated two 'first word' books to share with you at home. We would like you to help your child to practice blending the sounds together in the words they come across in the text, for example m-a-t to read the word mat. Your child may find this task tricky to begin with and you may find that you need to model how to do this with them.

During the week we recommend that you listen to your child read their books three times. The first time you listen to them read we would like you to focus on the children's **accuracy**, for example asking them to blend the sounds of the words they find unfamiliar and looking for tricky words. The second time that you listen to them read we suggest you do a quick revision of the words previously decoded and ask them to read the book again but this time more **fluently**. The third time that you listen to the children read we would like you to focus on their **comprehension** skills, for example ask your child questions about the things that they have read and the characters in the story. We would like you to write a quick comment in their home/school book to indicate that you have listened to your child read. Please let us know how well they read and any areas in which they needed support. As we progress through our phonics scheme the level of challenge within the books will increase, we will assess your child in school and issue books according to the level of their reading ability.

Your child will select their own reading books on a **Friday** and they will need to be returned at the end of that week on a **Thursday**. Your child will receive 2 books per week. If your child is confident with reading these books then you can supplement your child's books with library books, magazines and any books they enjoy at home. We are unable to offer any additional school reading books as we have a limited supply which we need to share between 60 children.

Parent Involvement

In Foundation we like to involve and utilise the skills of everyone willing to contribute to the children's learning. Sometimes this involves bringing in visitors from outside but very often there are people within the school community who can offer the children a unique insight or experience. Many people work in places of interest to the children such as the emergency services, the museum, library, occupations around fitness, the armed forces and so on. If you think that you might be able to come into school to work with small or large groups or you have a contact for someone in this field then we would love to hear from you. Alternatively, you might have a particular skill around music, craft, dance or sport that you might like to demonstrate. All of these things help to enrich the curriculum and bring it to life for the children. If you would like to help in the classroom with readers, name writing or indeed any other activity then we'd also love to hear from you. Perhaps you'd rather not work with the children but can offer help with maintaining our garden on a weekly or monthly basis. We value and appreciate the contribution that parents and grandparents can bring to our classroom and any help would be greatly welcomed! Please note that helpers have to complete a free DBS check. Information about obtaining your DBS can be acquired from the main school office. **We will update you when we have a definitive date for when parent/carers can come into school and help.**

It's all about Play!

Play is a crucial part of the curriculum in the Foundation Stage at Compton as it provides a platform for children to make sense of the world around them. We pride ourselves on the opportunities we provide for the children in our care and we believe that we maximise every child's potential to be independent, creative, imaginative and to think critically about the things they encounter on a daily basis. We teach the children skills such as cutting, joining, threading, colour mixing, labelling, building, storytelling, team work, spatial awareness, balancing, sorting and encourage them to apply these skills within their play. We give the children a range of 'open ended' and authentic real life resources to enable them to build their own play adventures rather than provide fixed activities for the children to play with. The children have large and small blocks, shells, reels, pebbles, wood, boxes, material of all shapes and sizes, props such as telephones, binoculars, steering wheel, tills, tea pots, pine cones, recyclable material, animals, people, pirates, knights and lots and lots more. They also have access to pens, paper, card, glue, sellotape, staplers, hole punchers, a paint bar and a 'make your own' play dough area. When the children learn new things about topics such as the human body they can then access this extensive bank of resources to create their own role play scenario. As part of our daily shared write activity we might be looking at how to write a prescription which would then be left out as a prompt for their play. By teaching in this way the children become immersed in their play and we maximise learning outcomes.

PE Times and Waterproofs

Foundation children need to wear their P.E kit to school every Wednesday. During the winter months the children should wear plain navy jogging bottoms and a yellow Compton t-shirt with the Compton logo. The normal school sweatshirt/cardigan should be worn over the top. Children may wear either plimsols or trainers to school on these days. Please note that trainers must be plain white, navy or black. Thank you to everyone who has sent in a set of waterproofs and wellies for their children. If you haven't sent them in for your child please do so as soon as possible as the children are not allowed to play in the sand and water if their clothes aren't protected.

Important Dates

Monday 20th September @ 3:30pm or 5:30pm 'Welcome to EYFS meeting'. This meeting will take place in the school hall and we will be running a crèche for school aged children- **at the 3:30pm meeting ONLY**. The meeting will provide you with information about the Foundation Stage curriculum, daily routine, early reading, writing and maths.

Tapestry and Reception Baseline Assessment Information

Attached to this newsletter is a note which provides more information about the Reception Baseline Assessment which your child will complete during the first six weeks of starting school. Alongside this we have attached more information about our online assessment tool 'Tapestry'. Please ensure you complete the relevant paperwork and send back to school ASAP.

Birthday celebrations- sweets and cakes

If it is your child's birthday then we will celebrate it by singing to them and giving out a special birthday sticker. Unfortunately we are unable to give out any cakes or sweets as we do have children in the class who have specific dietary requirements and medical needs. Thank you for your support with this and helping to keep the children safe.

Thank you so much for your support and remember if you have any questions or queries you can contact us via email jstapleton@compton.plymouth.sch.uk or jstein@compton.plymouth.sch.uk or you can contact the office on 01752 771539.

Best Wishes Jo Stapleton and Jenna Stein

On behalf of the foundation team