



Wren Class Newsletter Autumn Term 2016

Welcome everyone to Wren Class and the start of your time at Hawkesbury Primary School. All the children seem very happy and have already settled into the class, establishing routines and making new friends. Thank you for making us very welcome during the home visits. We find this helps a much smoother transition into school. It is so lovely to see excited faces looking out for us and being shown those new school shoes!

Over the next few weeks we shall be playing with, observing and getting to know your child! We have already had a fabulous time exploring the classroom, finding lots of woodlice in the sandpit and reading a story about the Pizza Princess who didn't have very good manners!

Tapestry

We shall soon be sending you a link to activate your Tapestry account. This is an online journal recording all the learning and fun of your child's time in Wren Class at Hawkesbury Primary School. In this way you will be able to see photographs and read about your child's daily experiences! We will continue to keep a paper based learning diary in the classroom so that children can add their own 'work' too and we can track their progress.

Mathletics

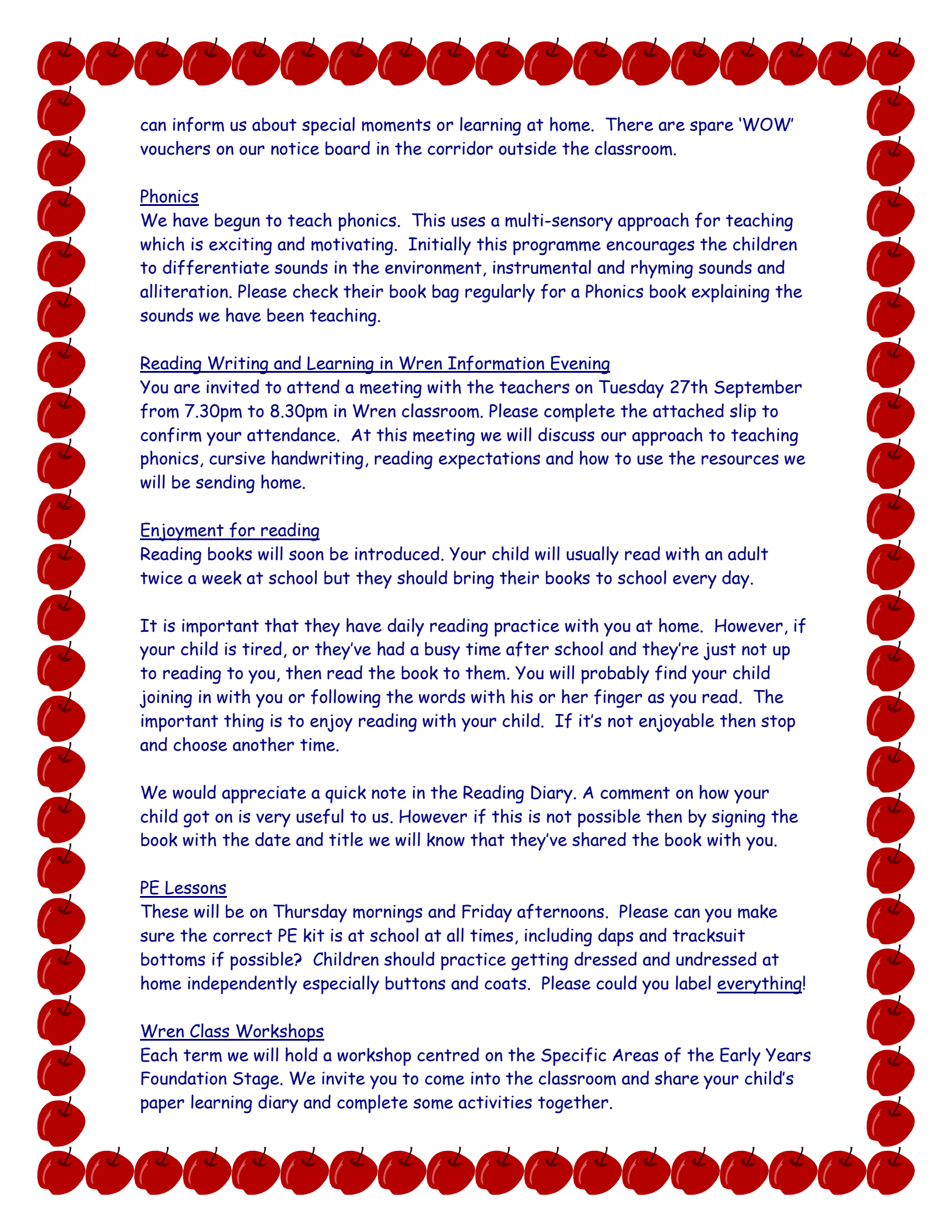
At the beginning of October your child will start to use Mathletics as part of their Maths learning program at school. Mathletics is the world's most used education website! It is the next generation in learning, helping students enjoy maths and improve results. This means that your child will also have take-home access to Mathletics. We will be providing you with more information and your child's log on details later this term after our launch assembly for the children.

Maths Games

We would like you to play a maths board game each week at home, but we need a volunteer to manage the maths games box. Could you help? This takes approximately 30 minutes each week and could be at the beginning or end of the day.

Themes

The topics that we follow in class are taken from and led by the children's interests. However we also cover seasonal related themes and important celebrations. If your child is particularly interested in something please tell us so we may develop this in our learning. We have attached 'WOW' vouchers so that you



can inform us about special moments or learning at home. There are spare 'WOW' vouchers on our notice board in the corridor outside the classroom.

Phonics

We have begun to teach phonics. This uses a multi-sensory approach for teaching which is exciting and motivating. Initially this programme encourages the children to differentiate sounds in the environment, instrumental and rhyming sounds and alliteration. Please check their book bag regularly for a Phonics book explaining the sounds we have been teaching.

Reading Writing and Learning in Wren Information Evening

You are invited to attend a meeting with the teachers on Tuesday 27th September from 7.30pm to 8.30pm in Wren classroom. Please complete the attached slip to confirm your attendance. At this meeting we will discuss our approach to teaching phonics, cursive handwriting, reading expectations and how to use the resources we will be sending home.

Enjoyment for reading

Reading books will soon be introduced. Your child will usually read with an adult twice a week at school but they should bring their books to school every day.

It is important that they have daily reading practice with you at home. However, if your child is tired, or they've had a busy time after school and they're just not up to reading to you, then read the book to them. You will probably find your child joining in with you or following the words with his or her finger as you read. The important thing is to enjoy reading with your child. If it's not enjoyable then stop and choose another time.

We would appreciate a quick note in the Reading Diary. A comment on how your child got on is very useful to us. However if this is not possible then by signing the book with the date and title we will know that they've shared the book with you.

PE Lessons

These will be on Thursday mornings and Friday afternoons. Please can you make sure the correct PE kit is at school at all times, including daps and tracksuit bottoms if possible? Children should practice getting dressed and undressed at home independently especially buttons and coats. Please could you label everything!

Wren Class Workshops

Each term we will hold a workshop centred on the Specific Areas of the Early Years Foundation Stage. We invite you to come into the classroom and share your child's paper learning diary and complete some activities together.

Dates of the workshops will be:

Thursday 17th November 2016 (8.30-9.15am) - Mathematics

Monday 23rd January 2016 (1.45-2.30pm) - Literacy

Wednesday 15th March 2016 (1.45-2.30pm) - Understanding of the World

Tuesday 16th May 2016 (8.30-9.15am) - Expressive Arts and Design

We will provide you with further information before each workshop.

Other dates for your diary!

- St Mary's Church Hawkesbury Upton Harvest Festival - Weds 5th October - 9.30am Everyone Welcome
- Harvest Festival in School - Friday 7th October 2016 - 1.45pm
- MacMillan Coffee Afternoon - Friday 23rd September 2016 - Time TBC
- Wren Parents Evening Tues 18th Oct 3 - 7pm or Weds 19th Oct 5 - 7pm
- INSET DAY - Children do not come to school. Friday 21st October

Year 6 Buddies

Next week each child in Wren will be allocated with a Year 6 Buddy who will help to support them at various times across the year.

Well done for making such a smooth start to your child's time at school. We know it is a big change for parents as well as children, so if you have any concerns or questions please feel free to chat to us. If a longer chat is needed we can arrange an appropriate meeting time.

Many thanks for your support.

Mrs Hornig and the Wren Class Teaching Assistants.

Name of Child _____

I **will** / **will not** (delete as appropriate) be able to attend the Reading, Writing and Learning Information Evening on Tuesday 27th September 2016.

Signed _____ Print name _____

(Please return to the Wren Class white correspondence basket).
