



Ashley Junior School

Aspiration • Resilience • Respect • Responsibility

9th September 2019

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to the new school year in Robin class, we hope it will be an exciting and enjoyable term.

Our Topic is 'Turning Over a New Leaf' which is all about the Amazon Rainforest and comparing it to our own New Forest. It will encompass stories about the rainforest, non-fiction work about the animals that live there, work on conservation, considering the impact of humans on the environment and many other exciting activities. As always it is our mission to make the curriculum as engaging and inspiring as we can and as part of our enrichment we will be going to Marwell Zoo to learn about the rainforest as a habitat and the creatures that make it their home.

In Robin class we will enjoy art sessions looking at traditional Brazilian art, making our own rainforest collages, drawing rainforest animals, making head dresses and trying our hand at clay modelling. We will focus on developing the children's PHSE skills, particularly their social skills, making friends and settling in to the new school year. We will work on them setting themselves targets and having a good attitude to learning – developing the resilience they need to achieve and learn.

The science that we will be covering in Robins is based around plants and what plants need to grow and thrive while our geography work is centred on Brazil, comparing it to our locality and finding out where it is situated. We will think about climate, landscape and conservation.

The children all do PE and Music with their mainstream buddies and this is on different days according to their year group. All Robin class need to have their named PE kit in school every day so they are always ready for PE activities. We also do the 'Core Concepts' programme most days which builds the children's core stability and helps to develop fine and gross motor skills.

Generally speaking Robins do Literacy activities in the morning followed by a Story Time and break/snack time. Please remember that healthy snacks such as fruit and vegetables are the only snack we allow. After break there are maths activities followed by Lexia before lunch. After lunch the children are involved in a range of settings – some are included in mainstream classes and some in nurture while some remain in the classroom. The Robins children are carefully placed according to need and this will vary.

The children will all bring their book bag home each day and it is important that this is returned **every day**. In the book bag you will find a reading book and a reading record where you can record your reading with your child. Please read as often as you can with your child. The whole school participate in the 'Reading Raffle' scheme where those children who read to an adult at home and record it in their Reading Record earn a raffle ticket. The raffle is drawn in assembly each week for the chance to win a book. It is important to read and re-read texts until the vocabulary is really familiar. It is also important to talk about the story and the characters – what they are doing and how they might be feeling. There will be a set of 'tag words' your child needs to learn to read on sight, and spelling words will be sent home in a handwriting book to practise. Please practise these frequently, daily if possible. In school we will regularly check how the children are doing with their words and add more as needed.

If your child travels by school transport, you will also find a communication book. We will always check these so please feel free to use this to tell us anything you think might be important. We will also communicate this way if there is anything we need to share with you. Those children who come to school with parents and carers we will usually catch on the playground if there is anything we need to tell you. You are also welcome to phone anytime if you need to speak to us about anything.

Thank you for your ongoing support and we look forward to another exciting year.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Harling Class Teacher and the Resourced Provision Team