



## Hello and Welcome to the Spring term 2019

We'd like to wish you a Happy New Year and welcome you back to a new and exciting term. December concluded a particularly busy and productive beginning to school life and we are very grateful for all the cooperation and support we received. We'd also like to take this opportunity to say thank you for the generous and thoughtful gifts - they were all very much appreciated.

### 'Mother Earth, Mother Nature'

Through the school's topic 'Mother Earth, Mother Nature' we will build on the strong foundations set in the Autumn term. This theme will inspire many of the activities that will engage the children's learning and spark their curiosity.

After reading the story 'Here We Are' by Oliver Jeffers the children will create their own books about what makes them happy.

In the second half of the term we will have an exciting visit from a petting farm. Leading on from this the children will investigate/ learn about and explore animals from all around the world from a variety of different environments.

In parallel, we will explore various well known and familiar stories centred around animals such as 'The Little Red Hen', 'The Ugly Duckling', 'The Three Little Pigs' and 'The Three Billy Goats Gruff' amongst others. The children will be encouraged to retell these stories through actions, using key vocabulary and begin to learn about story structure.

### Homework

Thank you to all Parents and Carers for continuing to support your child's homework, it is really important for their ongoing progression. Reading books will be changed every week so please continue to return both reading records and directed tasks. As the children learn new sounds it is important that they begin to recognise these sounds at the beginning and within words. A good way to support this is to play I spy and play the online game 'teach your monster to read'.

Please refer to the Nursery curriculum overview (on the schools website) for ways in which you can support your child in Nursery.

## Albemarle Core Values

We are **compassionate**.  
We have a **love for learning**.  
We aim for **excellence** in all we do.  
We are **independent** in our learning and beyond.  
We are **articulate** and polite.  
We are **responsible** individuals.  
We are **reflective**.  
We have the courage to **take risks**.

## Opal Class Expectations Work, Rest and Play

Now that the children are settled and more confident in their learning environment please encourage your child to line up at **8:40am** outside the Early Years gate so they can walk to their classroom independently.

In a few weeks time we will change our morning routine so that the children begin each day sitting on the carpet for a mini input. The day's activities will also be explained, so that the children can fully benefit from the learning opportunities provided.

- School starts at 8:45am and finishes at 3:15pm on Mondays and Tuesdays.
- On Wednesdays school starts at 8:45am and finishes at 11am. At 11am please wait outside the main gate until a member of staff is present to open it. After you collect your child, please do not allow them to play on the outside equipment as we need to ensure the main gate is shut again at 11.10.
- Follow our school/class rules
- Bring a water bottle, spare clothes, wipes, waterproof coat and wellington boots – please ensure these are labelled.
- Have lots of fun and learn
- Read every day with your child
- Have a good night's sleep

## Dates for your Diary

**14<sup>th</sup> January:** Clubs Start

**13<sup>th</sup> February:** Season for Love Concert

**HALF TERM:** 18th February - 22nd February

**25th February:** INSET Day- School closed to pupils

**6<sup>th</sup> March:** Parents Evening

**29<sup>th</sup> March:** Clubs Finish

**5<sup>th</sup> April:** Easter Parade

Please do not hesitate to ask a member of the team should you have any questions.

Ms Moor- Ms Elvey- Mrs Thompson