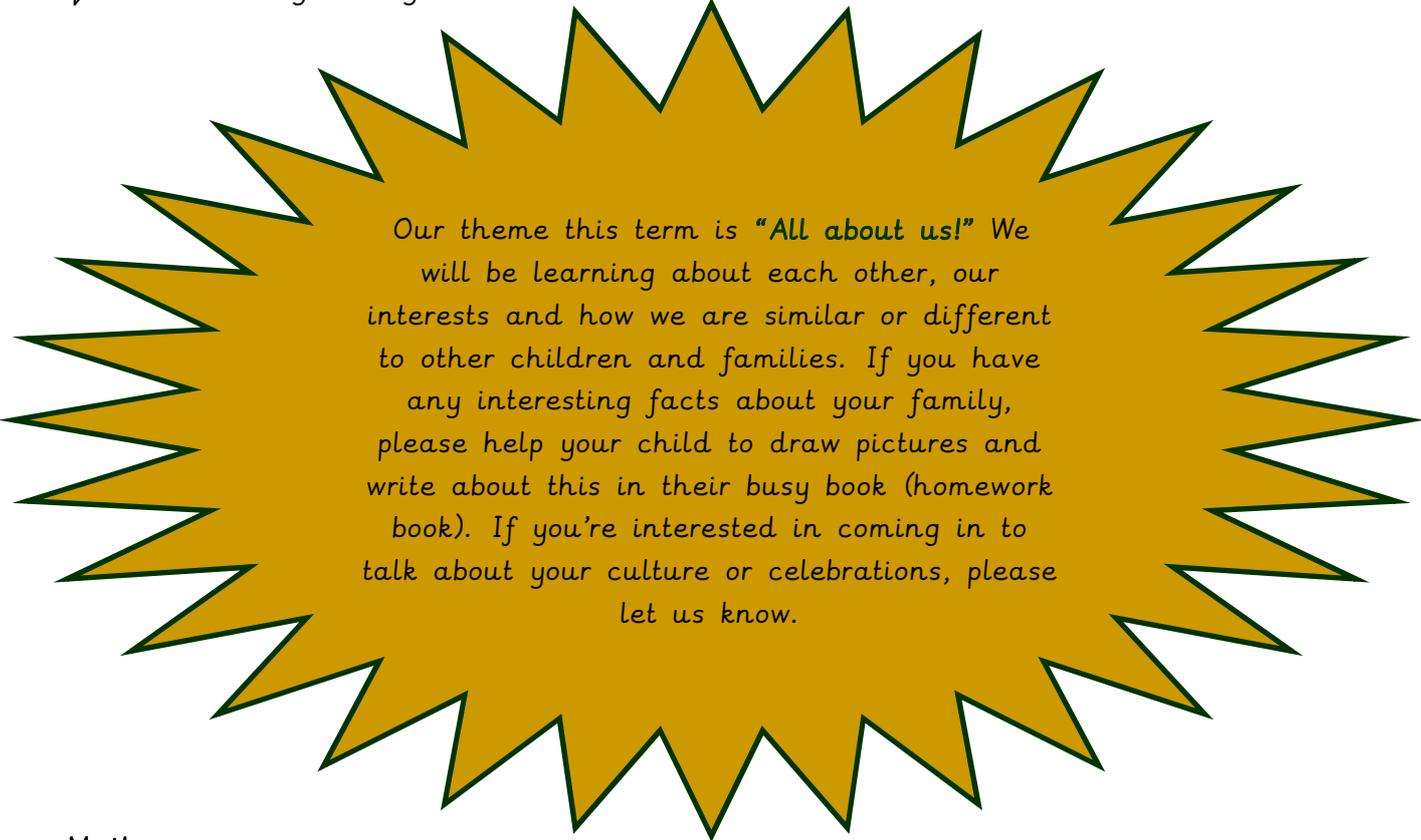


# Gold Class's Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Ditton Infant School! We hope your child settles in quickly and soon begins to love school and learning. Please feel free to speak to us at the end of the day after we have seen all the other children out to discuss any concerns or questions that you may have.



Our theme this term is "All about us!" We will be learning about each other, our interests and how we are similar or different to other children and families. If you have any interesting facts about your family, please help your child to draw pictures and write about this in their busy book (homework book). If you're interested in coming in to talk about your culture or celebrations, please let us know.

## **Maths**

This term we are going to be finding out about what your child can already do and develop their skill in counting and representing numbers. We will also be learning to name and describe 2D shapes and create patterns. We will do this through a range of games, activities and challenges through play.

## **Literacy**

We are going to develop more of an understanding of rhyme and alliteration and begin to blend (push together) and segment (pull apart) words verbally. We will also learn how to give meaning to the marks we make. We will teach the children how to make marks using lines, squiggles and letters to represent what they are trying to write and confidently talk about what their marks represent.

*To help us make this meaningful to your child, we would like them to bring in something that is special to them such as a family photo or their favourite toy on Wednesday 11th September so they can use it for their mark making. Note: one item only that is named.*

## Characteristics of Effective Learning

These are skills that underpin learning in the foundation stage. We use animals to represent the different characteristics and encourage the children to use these skills in their play and in lessons. Our focus this term:

- Concentrating Crocodile
- Exploring Elephant
- I Know Rhino



## Behaviour Chart

At Ditton Infant School, we have a 7 step behaviour system. The children in Gold Class start the week in the middle of the chart on the pirate boat. If their behaviour exceeds expectations, they will move up 1 step to the treasure map and receive a sticker from their teacher. If they continue to try really hard and exceed expectations, they will move to the pot of gold and receive a sticker from another member of staff. Finally, if they continue to make good choices, they will move to the 'Golden Book' and receive a certificate from Mrs Lewer, our Headteacher. Children can move up for using the Characteristics of Effective Learning, being a good role-model, being a kind friend, sharing fairly and challenging themselves.

However if the children break the 'Golden Rules,' they are required to have 5 minutes thinking time. If they continue to break the rules, they will go to a buddy class to receive a 10 minute time out and parents will be informed at the end of the day. If they move down again, they will be sent to Mrs Lewer or a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

## PE

Please bring in your PE kit and leave it in school. It will be sent home at the end of each term to be washed. Please remember to remove earrings on our PE day, which is a **Monday** this term.

## Forest Inspired Learning

We will be starting Forest Inspired Learning from 27<sup>th</sup> September and this will take place every Friday morning. Your child will need to come to school wearing old clothes that are suitable for the weather conditions that day as they will be playing outside in our wildlife garden no matter the weather. We suggest lots of layers and waterproof clothing. Please make sure your child's wellies are at school by this date and we will remind them to put them on. Please bring a carrier bag with your child's school clothes to change into after this session.

## Water and fruit

Your child needs to bring a full water bottle to school every day which will be kept in the classroom. This must only be plain drinking water (not flavoured or fizzy). If your child has packed lunch, they can also bring in a flavoured water, squash or juice in their lunch bag to drink with their lunch. At snack time, we provide the children with fruit. They usually get a choice of two different fruits. If you would

like to send in a piece of fruit for your child, you are welcome to, but this needs to be fruit in its natural form and not in a packet.

### **Pick up and drop off arrangements**

Please stand behind the red posts when picking up your child from school. This way, we can see all parents clearly. When dropping off your child, please watch them walk into the classroom before leaving. If your child is struggling to walk into school by themselves, please stand with them behind the red posts and wait until the rest of the class have entered the classroom and we will come out to reassure your child and help them come into school.

### **Parent Rep**

If you are interested in becoming a 'Parent Rep' for Reception and are available to meet with the Headteacher on a termly basis to discuss the views of other parents, please let us know ASAP.

### **Dates**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Class School photos for the KM will be on 24<sup>th</sup> September
- Individual school photos will be on 1<sup>st</sup> October.
- We will be running a Harvest themed Stay and Play on 3<sup>rd</sup> October.
- We will be delivering a Phonics Workshop to parents on 9<sup>th</sup> October at 2pm to share how we teach phonics. More information will follow.
- Parents' evening will be on 15<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> October from 3.30-6.30pm.

We look forward to a very exciting year! ☺

Mrs Boxall, Miss Pole and Mrs Brooker