

Welcome to our 'starting school' information booklet

We hope this booklet provides you with a useful reference in the first few weeks of your child's entry to St John the Baptist Primary School & Nursery. If any questions are not answered in this booklet, please email or telephone the school office. Please ask, as any member of staff will do their best to help.

Before starting school:

It is helpful if your child is able to:

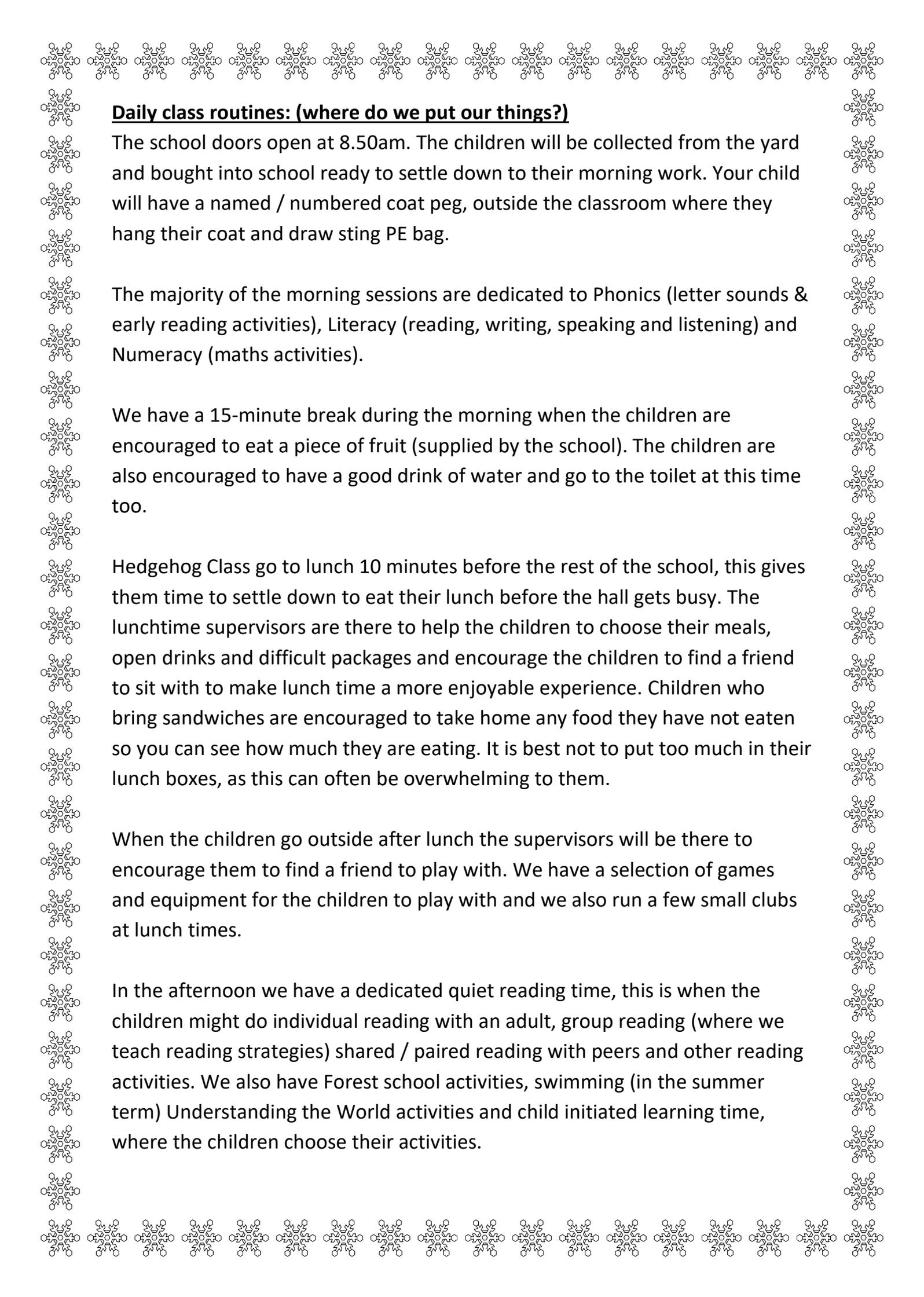
- Dress and undress themselves and fasten their coat and shoes, Velcro fasteners on shoes are easier than laces and buckles. All adults will naturally help with any difficult fasteners and buckles.
- Use the toilet independently and wash their hands.
- Share books with an adult and listen to stories.
- Recognise their first name.
- Make simple decisions for themselves.
- Select and tidy away their toys.

Children attending our Nursery have access to regular planned and spontaneous learning opportunities, which take place between Hedgehog Class and Nursery during the year before they start full time school. Staff also make regular visits to Nursery to get to know the children and often see them around school too. Nursery come to our Reception Classroom for child initiated play sessions once a week and so they are familiar with the room, staff and children too.

Class staff

Miss Horton teaches the class on a Monday and Tuesday and on a Wednesday morning. Mrs Johnson teaches the class on a Wednesday afternoon, a Thursday and a Friday. Mrs Farmer is currently on maternity leave, but when she returns to work in 2021 she will be teaching the class and Miss Horton will move to a new role.

We have excellent support staff in class too - Mrs Brammer, Mrs Grogan and Mrs Viner. They work with individual and small groups of children under the direction of the teacher.



Daily class routines: (where do we put our things?)

The school doors open at 8.50am. The children will be collected from the yard and brought into school ready to settle down to their morning work. Your child will have a named / numbered coat peg, outside the classroom where they hang their coat and draw string PE bag.

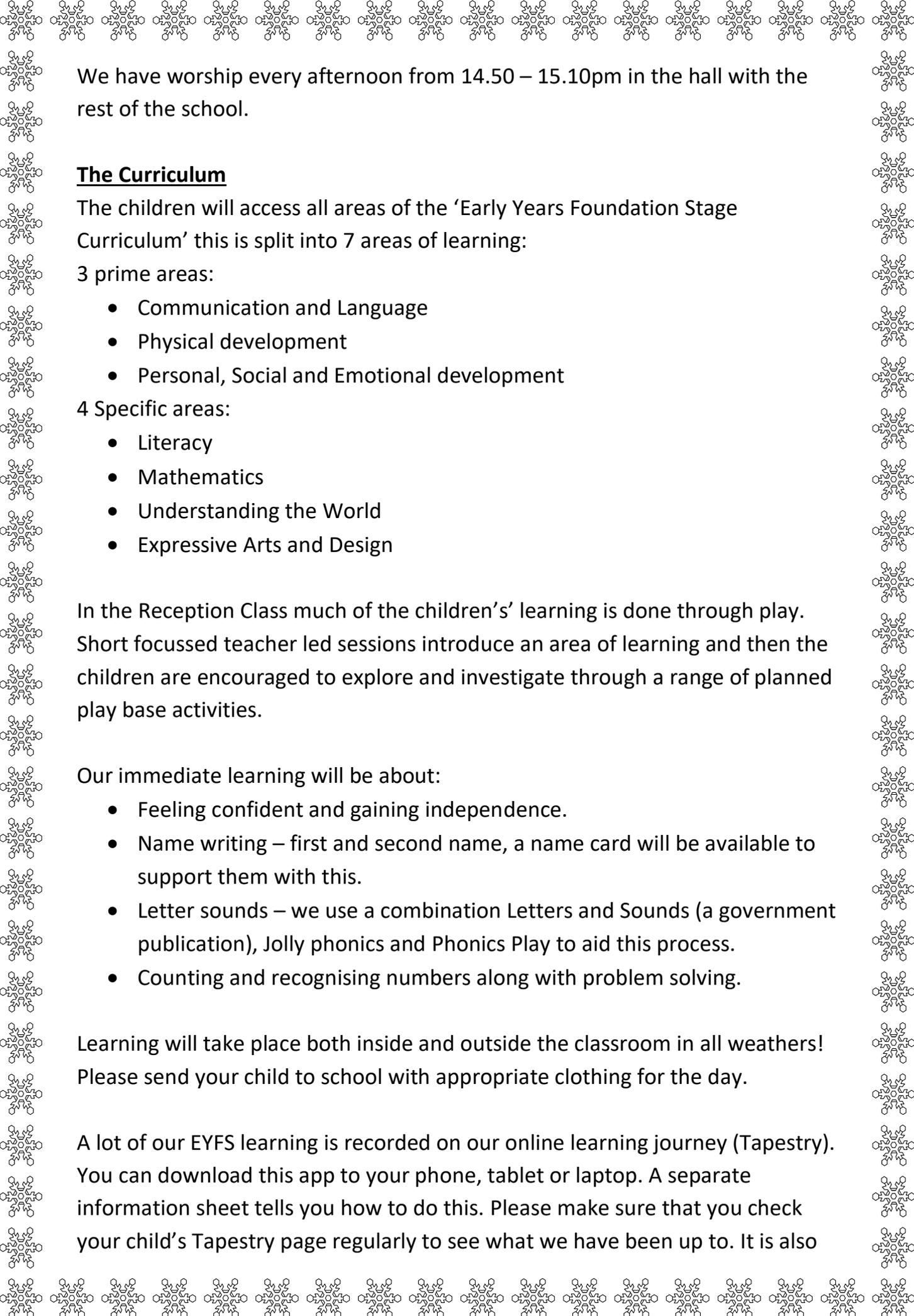
The majority of the morning sessions are dedicated to Phonics (letter sounds & early reading activities), Literacy (reading, writing, speaking and listening) and Numeracy (maths activities).

We have a 15-minute break during the morning when the children are encouraged to eat a piece of fruit (supplied by the school). The children are also encouraged to have a good drink of water and go to the toilet at this time too.

Hedgehog Class go to lunch 10 minutes before the rest of the school, this gives them time to settle down to eat their lunch before the hall gets busy. The lunchtime supervisors are there to help the children to choose their meals, open drinks and difficult packages and encourage the children to find a friend to sit with to make lunch time a more enjoyable experience. Children who bring sandwiches are encouraged to take home any food they have not eaten so you can see how much they are eating. It is best not to put too much in their lunch boxes, as this can often be overwhelming to them.

When the children go outside after lunch the supervisors will be there to encourage them to find a friend to play with. We have a selection of games and equipment for the children to play with and we also run a few small clubs at lunch times.

In the afternoon we have a dedicated quiet reading time, this is when the children might do individual reading with an adult, group reading (where we teach reading strategies) shared / paired reading with peers and other reading activities. We also have Forest school activities, swimming (in the summer term) Understanding the World activities and child initiated learning time, where the children choose their activities.



We have worship every afternoon from 14.50 – 15.10pm in the hall with the rest of the school.

The Curriculum

The children will access all areas of the ‘Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum’ this is split into 7 areas of learning:

3 prime areas:

- Communication and Language
- Physical development
- Personal, Social and Emotional development

4 Specific areas:

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

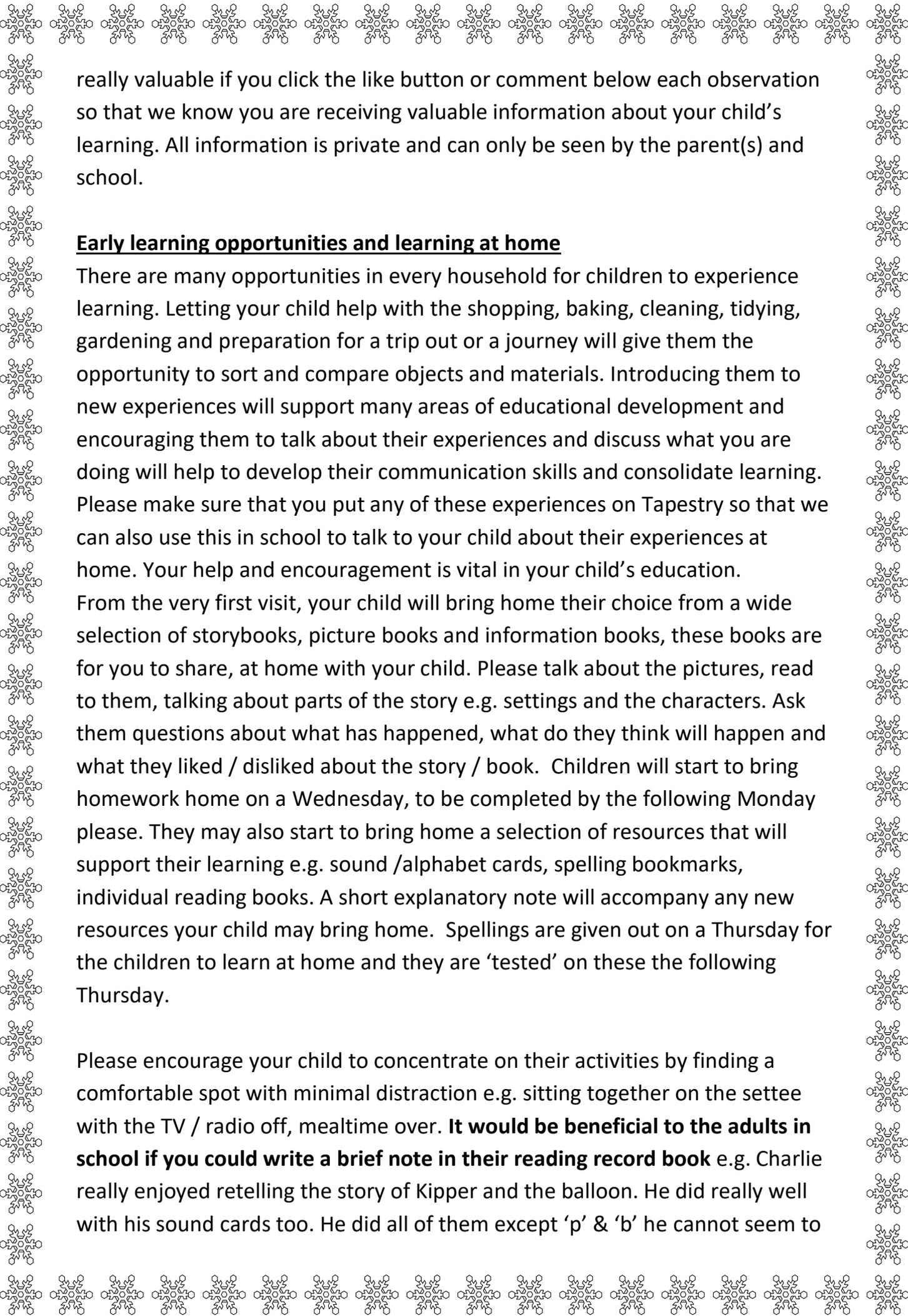
In the Reception Class much of the children’s’ learning is done through play. Short focussed teacher led sessions introduce an area of learning and then the children are encouraged to explore and investigate through a range of planned play base activities.

Our immediate learning will be about:

- Feeling confident and gaining independence.
- Name writing – first and second name, a name card will be available to support them with this.
- Letter sounds – we use a combination Letters and Sounds (a government publication), Jolly phonics and Phonics Play to aid this process.
- Counting and recognising numbers along with problem solving.

Learning will take place both inside and outside the classroom in all weathers! Please send your child to school with appropriate clothing for the day.

A lot of our EYFS learning is recorded on our online learning journey (Tapestry). You can download this app to your phone, tablet or laptop. A separate information sheet tells you how to do this. Please make sure that you check your child’s Tapestry page regularly to see what we have been up to. It is also



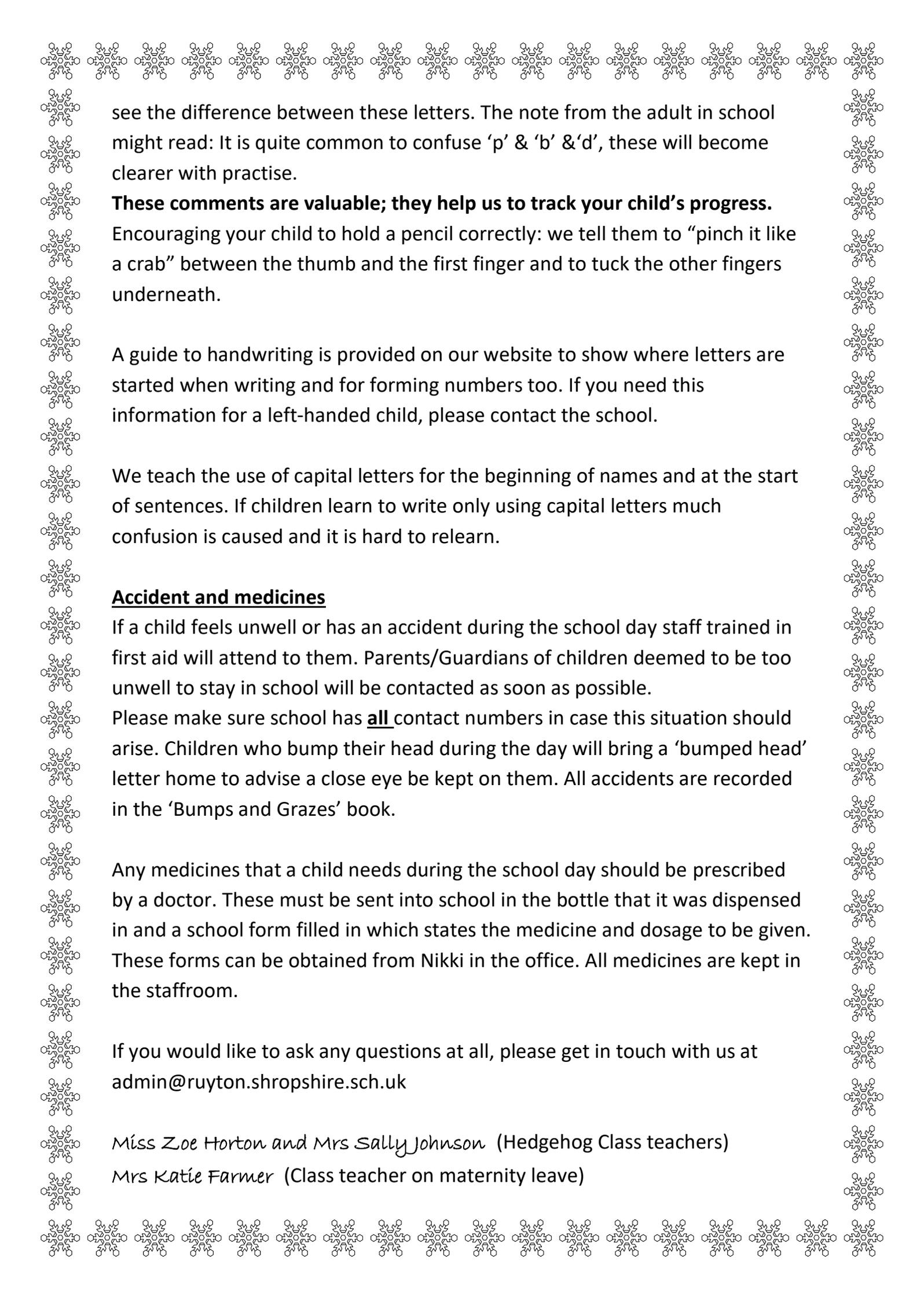
really valuable if you click the like button or comment below each observation so that we know you are receiving valuable information about your child's learning. All information is private and can only be seen by the parent(s) and school.

Early learning opportunities and learning at home

There are many opportunities in every household for children to experience learning. Letting your child help with the shopping, baking, cleaning, tidying, gardening and preparation for a trip out or a journey will give them the opportunity to sort and compare objects and materials. Introducing them to new experiences will support many areas of educational development and encouraging them to talk about their experiences and discuss what you are doing will help to develop their communication skills and consolidate learning. Please make sure that you put any of these experiences on Tapestry so that we can also use this in school to talk to your child about their experiences at home. Your help and encouragement is vital in your child's education.

From the very first visit, your child will bring home their choice from a wide selection of storybooks, picture books and information books, these books are for you to share, at home with your child. Please talk about the pictures, read to them, talking about parts of the story e.g. settings and the characters. Ask them questions about what has happened, what do they think will happen and what they liked / disliked about the story / book. Children will start to bring homework home on a Wednesday, to be completed by the following Monday please. They may also start to bring home a selection of resources that will support their learning e.g. sound /alphabet cards, spelling bookmarks, individual reading books. A short explanatory note will accompany any new resources your child may bring home. Spellings are given out on a Thursday for the children to learn at home and they are 'tested' on these the following Thursday.

Please encourage your child to concentrate on their activities by finding a comfortable spot with minimal distraction e.g. sitting together on the settee with the TV / radio off, mealtime over. **It would be beneficial to the adults in school if you could write a brief note in their reading record book** e.g. Charlie really enjoyed retelling the story of Kipper and the balloon. He did really well with his sound cards too. He did all of them except 'p' & 'b' he cannot seem to



see the difference between these letters. The note from the adult in school might read: It is quite common to confuse 'p' & 'b' & 'd', these will become clearer with practise.

These comments are valuable; they help us to track your child's progress.

Encouraging your child to hold a pencil correctly: we tell them to "pinch it like a crab" between the thumb and the first finger and to tuck the other fingers underneath.

A guide to handwriting is provided on our website to show where letters are started when writing and for forming numbers too. If you need this information for a left-handed child, please contact the school.

We teach the use of capital letters for the beginning of names and at the start of sentences. If children learn to write only using capital letters much confusion is caused and it is hard to relearn.

Accident and medicines

If a child feels unwell or has an accident during the school day staff trained in first aid will attend to them. Parents/Guardians of children deemed to be too unwell to stay in school will be contacted as soon as possible.

Please make sure school has **all** contact numbers in case this situation should arise. Children who bump their head during the day will bring a 'bumped head' letter home to advise a close eye be kept on them. All accidents are recorded in the 'Bumps and Grazes' book.

Any medicines that a child needs during the school day should be prescribed by a doctor. These must be sent into school in the bottle that it was dispensed in and a school form filled in which states the medicine and dosage to be given. These forms can be obtained from Nikki in the office. All medicines are kept in the staffroom.

If you would like to ask any questions at all, please get in touch with us at admin@ruyton.shropshire.sch.uk

Miss Zoe Horton and Mrs Sally Johnson (Hedgehog Class teachers)

Mrs Katie Farmer (Class teacher on maternity leave)