



Welcome Back to Ladybird Class!

We are so excited to welcome everyone back to Ladybird Class for a fun-filled term ahead! Our amazing team includes Mrs Simmons, Miss Key, Mrs Ridgeway, Miss Holland, and Mrs Askew, all ready to support your children's learning adventures. This term, we will explore some exciting themes that include:

- **Trains and Journeys**
- **Plants and Growing**
- **Mini Beasts**
- **Feelings**
- **Building Independence and Resilience**

These themes are designed to spark curiosity and help children understand their feelings, fitting perfectly with the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) curriculum. Each topic will provide lots of hands-on learning opportunities, encouraging children to ask questions and share their emotions. We invite you to support these themes at home by chatting with your child about them and trying out related activities together.

Throughout the term, we will dive into each theme with a variety of fun activities, from planting seeds in our garden to creating mini beast habitats. We encourage parents to share any related experiences or resources that can make our classroom discussions even more exciting either for show and tell or on Tapestry.

Tennis Time in PE!

This half term, we are thrilled to introduce tennis as our physical education focus! Our sessions will take place on Tuesday mornings, where some children will join the Year 1 class, while others will stay with Mrs Simmons. We will walk to the park to play on the tennis courts with a friendly professional tennis coach, who will teach the children the basics of the game.

Tennis is a fantastic way for children to get fit, improve their coordination, and learn teamwork skills. As we start this tennis adventure, we will focus on basic skills, like holding the racket and understanding the rules of the game.

Book Change Schedule

- **Monday:** Red Team

- **Tuesday:** Green Team
- **Wednesday:** Yellow Team
- **Thursday:** Blue Team

Regular book changes allow children to discover new stories and improve their reading skills. We encourage parents to set aside special reading time at home, as this can really help their child's literacy journey.

Phonics Focus

This term, we will be building on our level 3 phonics skills, and, towards the end of the term, we will start to introduce level 4. Phonics is a key part of early reading development, helping children to sound out words and develop their reading and writing skills.

In our phonics sessions, children will practice making simple sentences and captions, which are important for developing their communication skills. We encourage parents to join in at home by using phonics strategies during reading time. This can include sounding out words together or creating simple sentences using familiar words.

Important Dates to Remember

Please mark your calendars for these important dates:

- **Wednesday 15th April:** Feelings Workshop
- **Monday 4th May:** Bank Holiday
- **Friday 22nd May:** School Breaks Up

The feelings workshop is a wonderful chance for children to explore and understand their emotions, promoting emotional literacy and well-being.

Sun Safety and Coats

As the weather starts to change, we kindly ask that all children have sun hats in school. Please apply sun cream in the morning, and if you would like your child to reapply it at lunchtime, you can leave a named bottle on the windowsill.

On the other hand, please make sure your child has a coat in school, as we will continue to go outside for lunch no matter the weather. Your help with this is greatly appreciated, as it keeps all children safe and comfy during outdoor activities.

We also encourage chats at home about the importance of sun safety and dressing appropriately for the weather, reinforcing these important lessons.

Many thanks for your continued support.

Mrs Simmons and the Reception Team.