



### Message from Mr Hardstaff

Welcome to the Baston family for those who are new to the school and welcome back to another year for those who have been here before! The children have made a great start to their time in Reception and continue to amaze us with everything they can do. This is the first of a series of briefings which will hopefully be issued at the start of every half term. They will feature an overview of what the children will be looking at throughout the half term as well as anything important you should know.

Throughout the year, we would love to invite you or other family members into school to speak to the children about work or any special talents you or they may possess. If you would like to get involved, please speak to either myself or contact the school office.

Next term, we are going to be trying our hand at some junk modelling so we will be needing some packaging from home (e.g. cardboard tubes, cereal boxes, drink cans (no food cans please), yogurt pots...). Please send the children in with this at the start of next term.

### Dates for your Diary

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September - Harvest Celebrations  
Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October - Parents' Evening  
Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October - Flu immunisation

### Topic for this term

Our topic for this term is 'Welcome to Africa'. It is designed to welcome the children into their new class (called Africa) and teach them about the similarities and differences between life in England and life in African countries.

#### Literacy

Phonics lessons will be starting in the second week of this half term. The children will all start our Read Write Inc. scheme in the same group before they are grouped by ability. During these sessions, the children will be learning the Set 1 RWI sounds.

Each half term, we base our writing on 2 different books. This time, we are looking at *Where the Wild Things Are* and *Bringing the Rain to Kapiti Plain*. We will be using our sounds to help us write CVC words.

#### Mathematics

We use White Rose Maths for Mathematics across the school. They have recently recreated their EYFS scheme to make it much more engaging for the children whilst keeping it in small steps which help the children to learn at a comfortable rate.

This half term, we will be exploring matching and sorting, measure, counting to 5 and shapes with up to 4 sides.

<u>Topic</u>			<u>Physical Development</u>
<u>Understanding the World</u>	<u>Personal, Social and Emotional Development</u>	<u>Expressive Arts and Design</u>	
Our topic this term has a geography focus. We will be exploring life in England and how this compares to life in Africa by looking at the natural environments and the way people live in each place.  In RE, we will be finding out why the word 'God' is so important to Christians.	As the first term of Reception can be mixed bag of emotions for the children, we are going to be focusing on our feelings and how we can regulate these.	In order to help the children's fine motor skills and artistic skills to develop, this half term will see a focus on marvellous marks by allowing the children time to explore how to make use different tools to make marks.	Our PE this term will explore the fundamentals of movement such as stopping, starting and different ways of travelling around.

### How can you help at home?

#### Reading

Your child should have hopefully come home with some sheets containing the set 1 RWI sounds. If you have not received these or would like another copy, please let me know. It is really helpful if you practice these with your child as much as possible as they will need them to help with almost all aspects of learning. Once the children start to progress into groups, they will be sent home with different forms of reading to have a go at.

#### Writing

The sound sheets also have rhymes on them for each letter. These are to help the children remember how to write them. If you would like your child to practice their writing at home, please use these rhymes to assist them.

#### Mathematics

Please feel free to help your child with their counting skills. It is important that they are able to count objects carefully in order to help them with their number skills later on in the year.

If you have any worries, concerns or questions you would like to discuss with school, please either speak to me at the gate or contact the school office.

If these concerns are of a SEND nature, then please contact me and I will let Mrs Webb, our school SENCo, know if the matter needs to be taken further.

Mr Hardstaff