

September 2016

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Hello, and welcome to [Blue Class](#). We hope you and the children have had an enjoyable Summer Holidays, and are looking forward to the term ahead. This letter is intended to give you an idea about the routines and expectations of Y2 as it can be difficult getting back into routines, and starting a new class.

Firstly, we would like to introduce you to our team - Mrs. Coult (Mondays, Tuesdays & Wednesdays; Mrs. Hudd (Thursdays and Fridays) and Mrs Ellis, every day!

Reading Routines

Once a week, your child will read with one of us (Mrs Coult/Mrs Hudd). This will be done as a guided group, with the texts carefully selected to match the reading level of the group, or individually depending on the need of the individual. We will endeavor to make a note in the home-school book to let you know we have read with them during these guided reading sessions and try to hear them read individually when we can. Please bear with us if we have not noted this. Rest assured they are being read to and we do monitor their reading levels carefully.

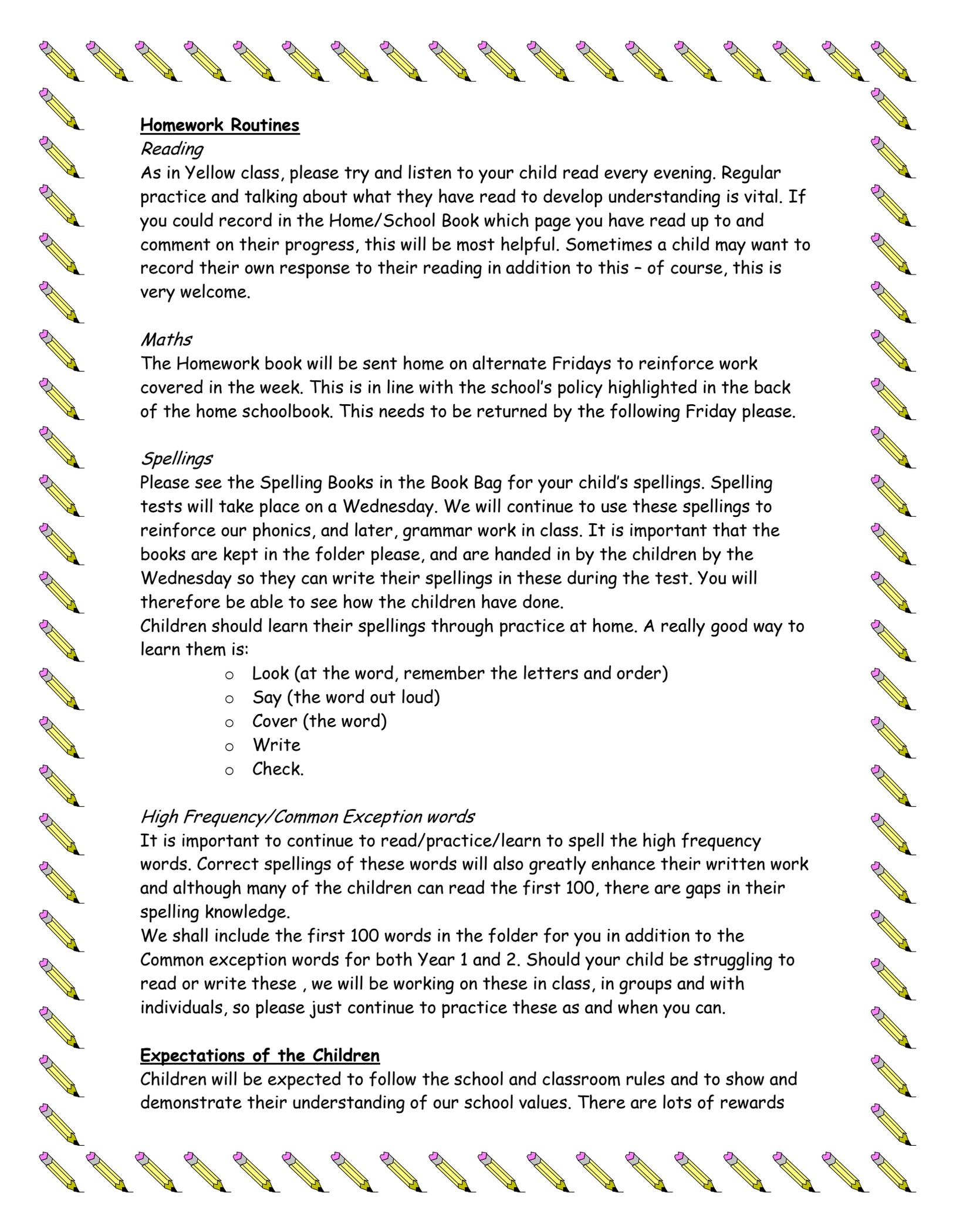
During the first couple of weeks, we shall read with each child to ensure they have the correct colour banded book. Should you have any school books at home, please could you bring them back into school. Many thanks.

Independent Reading

Your child should bring a book home every evening for you to share together. This should be kept in their home school book and brought back in every morning please. This is important, as we will be using their books for reading and comprehension activities. They will need to change the reading book themselves when it has been completed, and we ask that they try and do this first thing in the morning or at lunch time. We will, of course, discuss this with them.

You may, at times, find that your child is finding a book quite 'easy'. If this is the case, it is NOT necessarily a bad thing as reading an 'easier' text can help with fluency and understanding of the text. Rereading of sentences/paragraphs can help to increase fluency and understanding. However, please let us know so we can read with them and, if appropriate, in addition, provide a more challenging text. During the week, other adult helpers (hopefully!) will have some time to listen to children read individually, give support with Phonics or aid comprehension skills.

- Once children go past Lime band books, they are given the opportunity to read books of their choice. They should, however, still be supported to choose books that are appropriate in difficulty and content.



Homework Routines

Reading

As in Yellow class, please try and listen to your child read every evening. Regular practice and talking about what they have read to develop understanding is vital. If you could record in the Home/School Book which page you have read up to and comment on their progress, this will be most helpful. Sometimes a child may want to record their own response to their reading in addition to this - of course, this is very welcome.

Maths

The Homework book will be sent home on alternate Fridays to reinforce work covered in the week. This is in line with the school's policy highlighted in the back of the home schoolbook. This needs to be returned by the following Friday please.

Spellings

Please see the Spelling Books in the Book Bag for your child's spellings. Spelling tests will take place on a Wednesday. We will continue to use these spellings to reinforce our phonics, and later, grammar work in class. It is important that the books are kept in the folder please, and are handed in by the children by the Wednesday so they can write their spellings in these during the test. You will therefore be able to see how the children have done.

Children should learn their spellings through practice at home. A really good way to learn them is:

- Look (at the word, remember the letters and order)
- Say (the word out loud)
- Cover (the word)
- Write
- Check.

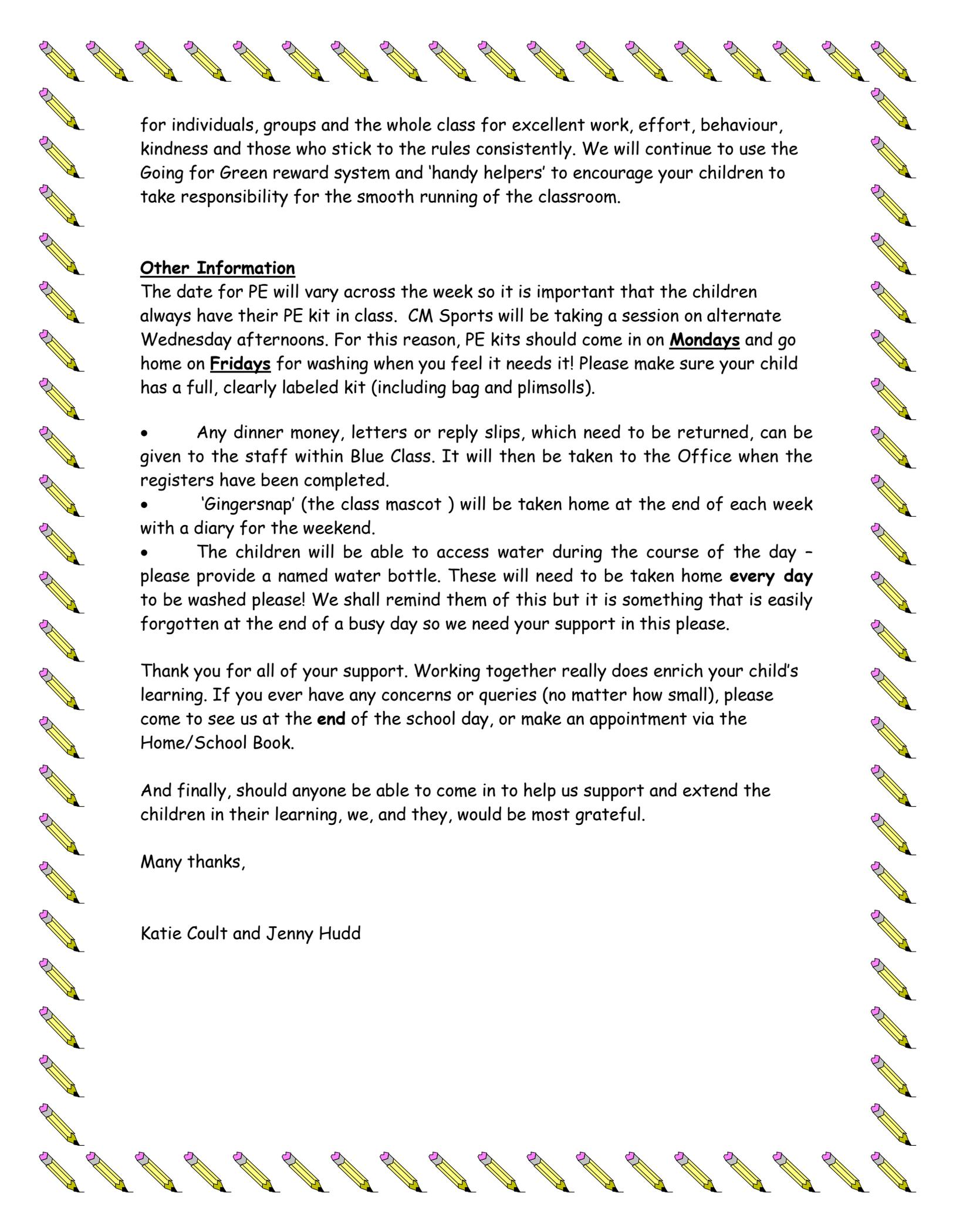
High Frequency/Common Exception words

It is important to continue to read/practice/learn to spell the high frequency words. Correct spellings of these words will also greatly enhance their written work and although many of the children can read the first 100, there are gaps in their spelling knowledge.

We shall include the first 100 words in the folder for you in addition to the Common exception words for both Year 1 and 2. Should your child be struggling to read or write these, we will be working on these in class, in groups and with individuals, so please just continue to practice these as and when you can.

Expectations of the Children

Children will be expected to follow the school and classroom rules and to show and demonstrate their understanding of our school values. There are lots of rewards



for individuals, groups and the whole class for excellent work, effort, behaviour, kindness and those who stick to the rules consistently. We will continue to use the Going for Green reward system and 'handy helpers' to encourage your children to take responsibility for the smooth running of the classroom.

Other Information

The date for PE will vary across the week so it is important that the children always have their PE kit in class. CM Sports will be taking a session on alternate Wednesday afternoons. For this reason, PE kits should come in on **Mondays** and go home on **Fridays** for washing when you feel it needs it! Please make sure your child has a full, clearly labeled kit (including bag and plimsolls).

- Any dinner money, letters or reply slips, which need to be returned, can be given to the staff within Blue Class. It will then be taken to the Office when the registers have been completed.
- 'Gingersnap' (the class mascot) will be taken home at the end of each week with a diary for the weekend.
- The children will be able to access water during the course of the day - please provide a named water bottle. These will need to be taken home **every day** to be washed please! We shall remind them of this but it is something that is easily forgotten at the end of a busy day so we need your support in this please.

Thank you for all of your support. Working together really does enrich your child's learning. If you ever have any concerns or queries (no matter how small), please come to see us at the **end** of the school day, or make an appointment via the Home/School Book.

And finally, should anyone be able to come in to help us support and extend the children in their learning, we, and they, would be most grateful.

Many thanks,

Katie Coult and Jenny Hudd