



September

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the new school year. To those of you have had your child at Feltwell last year, welcome back! To those new to our community, we are glad you are here. My main objective is to help facilitate making this a good year for both you and your child. The best action you can take is to have a positive, non-fearful attitude toward school. Children are extremely sensitive to your reactions (some of which we may think we have hidden) and will pick up on your attitude quickly. If you notice any negative changes in behavior, please let me know right away. It is important that we--parent / teacher / child work together to maximize the benefits your child will receive during his / her 1st grade experience.

HELPFUL HINTS

- Please put your child's name on all personal items (lunch box, clothing, book bags, etc.) Retrieval from the Lost and Found is much easier, and if someone accidentally takes an item that "looks like his / hers" they are more likely to be returned!
- Please see that your child is well rested for school. The first few weeks are a big adjustment, and it is quite normal for children to come home very tired! Five and six year olds tend to be dawdlers in the morning. Please see that your child is up in plenty of time to have a relaxing start on the day.
- Please see that your child has a good breakfast. Lunch is served at 11:50. Your child may bring in a **healthy** snack to eat; however, it is not enough to replace a good breakfast, and we all do better with something in our tummy! Please send in **finger food snacks only:** fruit/vegetable/crackers, etc. **NO SUGAR, PLEASE!**
- Students come inside at 8:25. Our day begins at 8:30. If you have any appointments scheduled early in the morning, it would be very helpful if you could send in a note the day before, that way I will know not to count your child tardy on our attendance.
- **TOYS DO NOT COME TO SCHOOL.** Please see that your child does not bring them unless there is a special event. I will send home a note letting you know of the special times when articles may be brought to school. If your child brings an item to school that s/he chooses to play with during our work time, I will keep it in my desk until you have a chance to pick it up.

- Encourage your child to talk about school by asking specific questions, rather than general ones (i.e. What did you do in school today?). Please remember that it is often difficult, although quite normal, for a 1st grader to recall in detail, even the last half hour of the day!
- Encourage a sense of responsibility for your child's behavior, belongings and work.

**PLEASE READ WITH
AND
TO YOUR CHILD EVERY DAY!**



CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR / RULES: Each child is responsible for his / her own behavior. We will discuss classroom rules the first week of school and your child will be explaining the routines as part of the assigned homework. We will talk about how rules help us to be able to work and learn because we have the proper environment. Class disruptions that interfere with ability to

work and learn are not acceptable. Your child will be encouraged to make appropriate decisions for his/her behavior.

HOMEWORK: Homework notes will be sent on via e-mail on a weekly basis by the 1st day of each week. Your child will have activities to do each night (Monday to Thursday). One activity will reinforce the work we are doing as a group in the classroom (located in the Homework Folder) and one will be directly related to reading skills in the leveled book s/he is assigned (located in the "Reading Envelope". A collection of any work to be reviewed from the week / or an indication that none is required will be sent home via "The Friday Homework Note". This sheet should be returned each Monday (any work attached **does not** come back). This routine eliminates the question of "Any homework tonight?" Sometimes a substitute will forget... me too, if it has been a very busy day ☺! I will inform you, by e-mail, if this is the case.

Homework is your child's responsibility.

Start out on the right foot by establishing an equipped place and time for homework to be done. It is also important for you to monitor the activities to see that they are being done correctly. You are not expected to do the teaching...homework reinforces activities we are working on in class. Your child should be spending no more than 30 minutes each night on assigned homework activities. If this becomes a problem, contact me right away.

Late homework will not be accepted. Reading materials can go home everyday; however, since they are used in our instruction time, it is important that these are returned daily in a responsible manner.

CLOSE CONFUSERS ON THE HOMEWORK NOTE...

Spelling ..and.. Reading Vocabulary Words

Spelling: words your child will learn to blend (sound out) and spell

Reading Vocabulary Words: mastery words your child will learn to read (spelling these words is developmental)

F.R.E.D. Reading ..and.. Reading Logs

F.R.E.D. Reading: time spent involved in print of any kind, with/without assistance

Reading Logs: a book list of independently read stories your child will collect during the school year.



CLASSROOM VISITATION: Classroom visitation is encouraged and I hope you will take an active part in your child's experiences. When you are visiting, please remember:

- I will not be able to conference with you at that time. Conference times are scheduled after 3:15. During the school day I am either working with or for children and I cannot give you the time you deserve. If you would like a conference, please let me know 1 day in advance. I do have after school meetings and I would not want to miss seeing you.
- While you are **observing**, please take a passive role with students who are working. Some children are intimidated by visitors, others take advantage!

**If you have any questions,
please request a conference.**

I am looking forward to working with you this year.

Sincerely,
Pam Wilson~ Teacher

