



Welcome to Foundation at Stowford School

What is Foundation?

The Foundation Stage is where our youngest children start their school journey.

This is a very important stage as it helps you prepare them for their future learning and successes. Up until the age of 5, their early years should be happy, active, exciting, fun and secure; and support their development, care and learning needs.

At Stowford we promote learning through play and experiences. Play is an integral part of the *Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)*. Children are given lots of opportunities to initiate, investigate and develop their own play, ideas and thinking within the 7 areas of learning inside and outside: communication and language, physical development, personal, social and emotional development, literacy, mathematics, understanding the world and expressive arts and design.

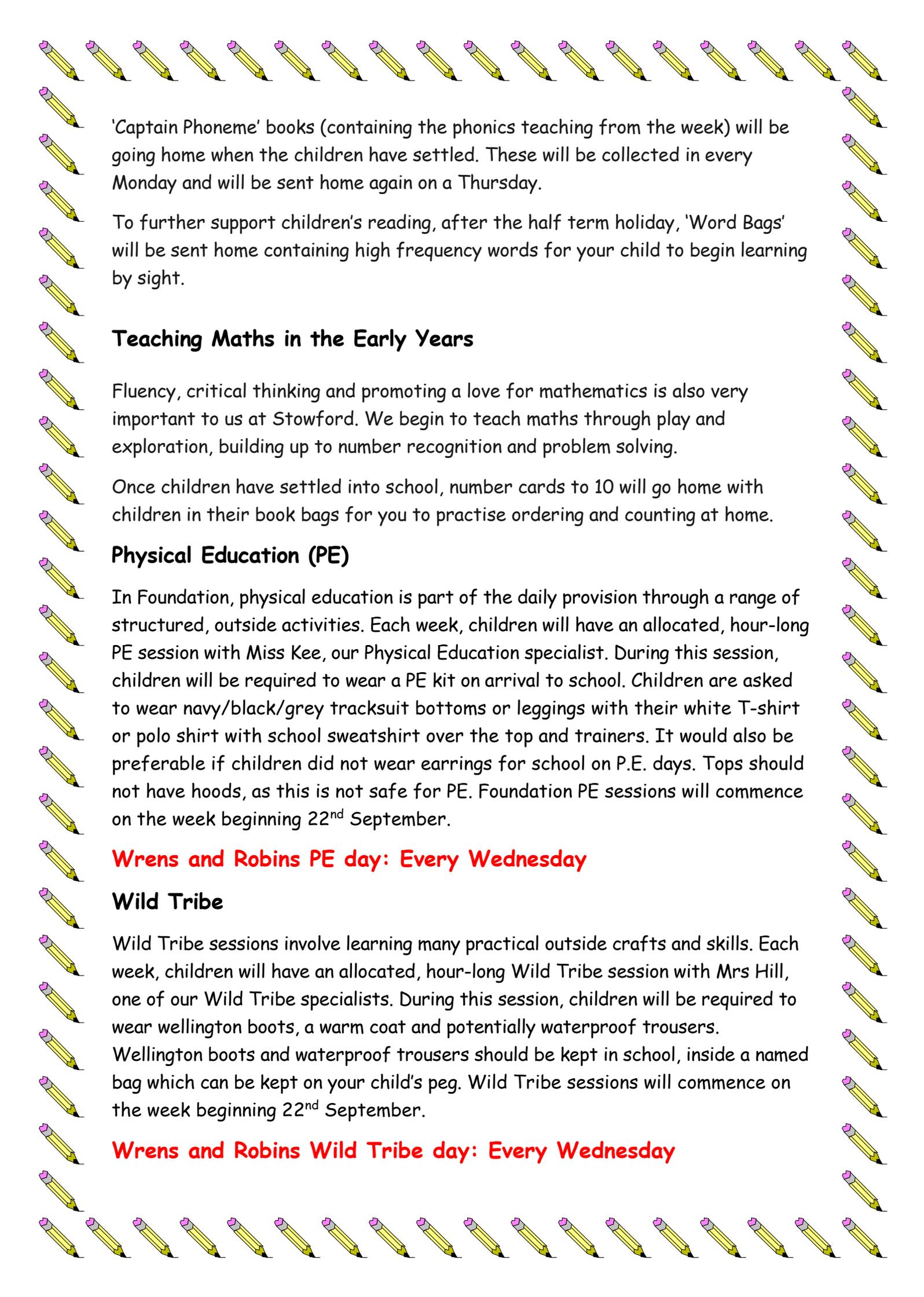
We spend time together playing and exploring, sharing ideas for learning, developing language and vocabulary, talking and listening and developing children's awe and wonder for the world around them.

Teaching Reading in the Early Years

Language acquisition and promoting a love of reading is very important to us at Stowford. We teach phonics in a systematic way and the children are introduced to letter shapes and corresponding sounds and will begin to blend these sounds together when they read words. Throughout the Early Years, and moving into Year 1, children are taught synthetic phonics in a repetitive and structured way. Children become readers, writers and great communicators.

Once children have settled into school, reading books and shared books will go home with children in their book bags. When you have finished reading the books with your children, please sign their *Home School Diary* so that we know to change them.

Book changing will be done on a Monday and Thursday, to allow you time to explore the books properly.



'Captain Phoneme' books (containing the phonics teaching from the week) will be going home when the children have settled. These will be collected in every Monday and will be sent home again on a Thursday.

To further support children's reading, after the half term holiday, 'Word Bags' will be sent home containing high frequency words for your child to begin learning by sight.

Teaching Maths in the Early Years

Fluency, critical thinking and promoting a love for mathematics is also very important to us at Stowford. We begin to teach maths through play and exploration, building up to number recognition and problem solving.

Once children have settled into school, number cards to 10 will go home with children in their book bags for you to practise ordering and counting at home.

Physical Education (PE)

In Foundation, physical education is part of the daily provision through a range of structured, outside activities. Each week, children will have an allocated, hour-long PE session with Miss Kee, our Physical Education specialist. During this session, children will be required to wear a PE kit on arrival to school. Children are asked to wear navy/black/grey tracksuit bottoms or leggings with their white T-shirt or polo shirt with school sweatshirt over the top and trainers. It would also be preferable if children did not wear earrings for school on P.E. days. Tops should not have hoods, as this is not safe for PE. Foundation PE sessions will commence on the week beginning 22nd September.

Wrens and Robins PE day: Every Wednesday

Wild Tribe

Wild Tribe sessions involve learning many practical outside crafts and skills. Each week, children will have an allocated, hour-long Wild Tribe session with Mrs Hill, one of our Wild Tribe specialists. During this session, children will be required to wear wellington boots, a warm coat and potentially waterproof trousers.

Wellington boots and waterproof trousers should be kept in school, inside a named bag which can be kept on your child's peg. Wild Tribe sessions will commence on the week beginning 22nd September.

Wrens and Robins Wild Tribe day: Every Wednesday



Golden Time

In Foundation, the children learn about Golden Rules, which support the Stowford Behaviour Policy. As part of our positive approach to behaviour management Golden Time occurs every Friday afternoon, during this time children can play across both Foundation classrooms with a variety of school-based toys. Children can also bring in a small toy from home in a named bag (no electrical toys, guns, balls or expensive toys please.)

Class Dojo

Class Dojo is an online communication tool used at Stowford. It is used to communicate directly with the class teacher and also enables you to see what your children have been up to and which 'dojo points' they have received during the day. If you are not yet set up with login details for Class Dojo, you will soon be invited to create an account.

Volunteering in the Early Years

If you have some free time that you would like to spend helping in school, do let your child's teacher know. We always appreciate volunteers who can read with children, play a game or share a special skill!

Parent and Teacher Communication

If you are ever unsure of something, or have any concerns, please don't hesitate to contact a member of the Foundation team. Mrs Freeland and Mrs Hill will be able to pass on messages at the start of the day at the gates and the teachers will be free at the end of each day should you need to talk to us. Furthermore, Class Dojo allows for direct messaging to your class teacher as well.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Ocean and Mr Roberts

