



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 prepare your children for their future learning and successes. Our Early Years environment is happy, active, exciting, fun and secure; and we support your child's development, care and learning needs every step of the way.

At Stowford, we promote learning through play and experiential learning. 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: Communication and Language, Physical Development, Personal, Social and Emotional Development, Literacy, Mathematics, Understanding the World and Expressive Arts and Design.

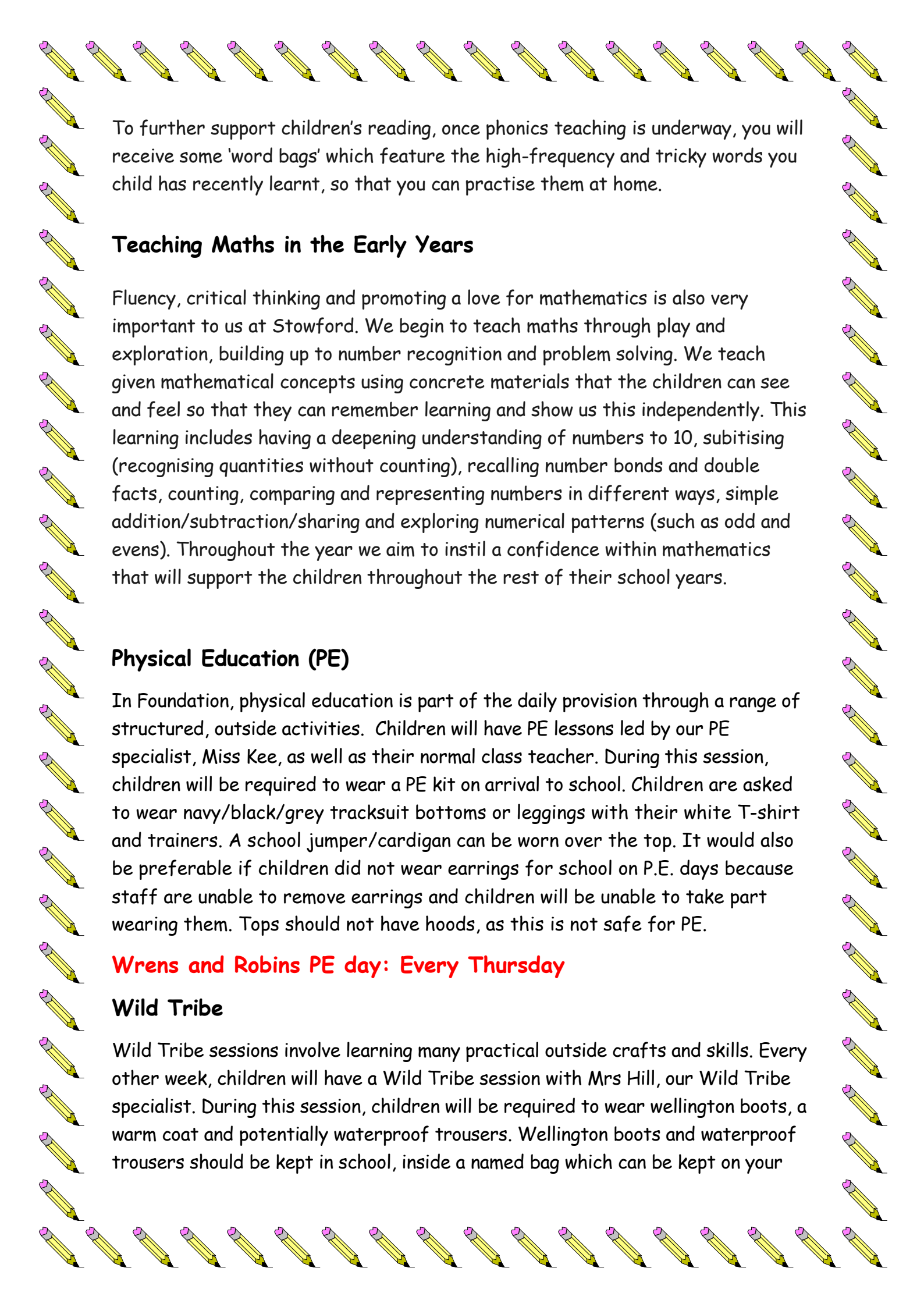
We spend time together playing and exploring, sharing ideas for learning, developing language and vocabulary, talking and listening and developing children's awe and wonder for the world around them.

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 where the children are introduced to letter shapes and corresponding sounds and will begin to blend these sounds together when they read words and segment them for spelling. 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, appropriate to level of phonological awareness. When you have finished reading the books with your children, please sign their *Home School Diary*. Sharing books are books that you read for your child and are not matched to your child's phonics level, but instead there to instil a love of reading at an early age.

Book changing will begin once the children have had a few weeks of phonics teaching and you will be informed of the book changing day nearer to the time.



To further support children's reading, once phonics teaching is underway, you will receive some 'word bags' which feature the high-frequency and tricky words you child has recently learnt, so that you can practise them at home.

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. We teach given mathematical concepts using concrete materials that the children can see and feel so that they can remember learning and show us this independently. This learning includes having a deepening understanding of numbers to 10, subitising (recognising quantities without counting), recalling number bonds and double facts, counting, comparing and representing numbers in different ways, simple addition/subtraction/sharing and exploring numerical patterns (such as odd and evens). Throughout the year we aim to instil a confidence within mathematics that will support the children throughout the rest of their school years.

Physical Education (PE)

In Foundation, physical education is part of the daily provision through a range of structured, outside activities. Children will have PE lessons led by our PE specialist, Miss Kee, as well as their normal class teacher. 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 and trainers. A school jumper/cardigan can be worn over the top. It would also be preferable if children did not wear earrings for school on P.E. days because staff are unable to remove earrings and children will be unable to take part wearing them. Tops should not have hoods, as this is not safe for PE.

Wrens and Robins PE day: Every Thursday

Wild Tribe

Wild Tribe sessions involve learning many practical outside crafts and skills. Every other week, children will have a Wild Tribe session with Mrs Hill, our Wild Tribe specialist. 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 19th September, so please can you ensure your child's Wild Tribe kit is at school ready for this date.

Wrens and Robins Wild Tribe day: Every alternate Tuesday

Class Dojo

Class Dojo is an online communication tool used at Stowford. It is used to communicate directly with the class teacher and teaching assistant 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, please enquire with your child's class teacher.

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, Mrs Hill, Mr Roberts and Mr Page will be able to receive messages at the start of the day and 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.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Roberts and Mr Page

