



Early Years Newsletter

Autumn Term 2017

Dear Parents

Welcome to Early Years! We hope you all had a wonderful Summer holiday. The children have all been excited to see us during our home visits and we are looking forward to the term ahead.

Dates for the diary:

28th September - Understanding Phonics Session - information to follow
18th October - Parents' Evening
19th October - Parents' Evening
1st December - Early Years Christmas Performance

Areas of Learning and Development

Just to recap, there are 7 areas of learning and development. We plan a variety of activities based around the children's interests. Although we do not have set topics in Early Years, we like to begin with activities which help us to get to know the children and their families. This term we will begin with a 'Marvellous Me!' theme, followed by learning about different celebrations. We will also work with the children's ideas and interests to ensure they are engaged in their learning.

Understanding the World

We will learn to share information about ourselves and will discuss our families, how our bodies work and learn how we use our senses.

After half term, the children will understand that different people can celebrate in different ways. We will look at a range of celebrations such as Diwali, Bonfire Night, Harvest, Christmas and begin to discuss celebrations such as New Year.

Mathematical Development

We will begin work on recognising and writing all our numbers to 20. We will introduce the children to Numicon, a maths scheme used in school, which uses different coloured shape tiles. The children will be able to use this in school daily to support their play and learning of numbers.

We will begin to develop the children's ability to count accurately by involving them in a range of practical activities and number songs. We will focus on matching numerals with quantities and cover work on recognising repeating patterns and 2D shapes.

Communication, Language and Literacy

The children will take part in daily phonics lessons. During this time the children will learn individual sounds and letter formation based on the phonics scheme used in school - Read Write Inc. Once the children are confident at saying sounds, each class will begin to blend letters to read a simple word.

We are planning to look at a range of patterned stories during the term to support interests. We will also work on different nursery rhymes to help to develop the children's understanding of poetry and rhyme. After half term we will begin to look at some traditional stories such as the 'The Gingerbread Man' and 'The Little Red Hen'.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

This term we are helping the children to see themselves as learners and we will focus on their listening skills. We will develop their understanding of the rules and routines we have in school. They will work in whole class or groups to develop their ability to work in a variety of situations. The children will take part in regular circle times to discuss different topics. During this time we will talk about school rules and our school standards such as to be SAFE, RESPECTFUL and KIND.

Expressive Art and Design

This term the children will have the opportunity to join in with a number of different art activities based around our themes. The children will learn new songs linked to their learning and we hope you encourage them to sing these to you. During the year we like to cook as often as possible. A cooking letter will be sent home shortly.

Physical Development

The children will develop their skills during our daily outside activities. This will include riding bikes, scooters and various balancing activities to help develop coordination. The children will also take part in a wide range of activities in the classroom whereby they learn to use scissors, cutters and other small tools safely and competently. They will also take part in weekly PE sessions with our school Sports Coach. All children will need to bring in their PE kit to school to hang on their pegs.

Learning at Home

In order for your child to develop a love of books and reading we will be giving each child a book to take home to read with their parents or carers. This will be a library book you should read to your child. They will need to return the book to school in order to exchange them on Tuesdays. Please can we ask you to support your child in practising their sounds at home. Once the children begin our reading scheme, can we ask you to also read with your child as often as possible. When you read, please can you write in your child's diary so that we can build up a picture of each child's reading experience.

Just a Reminder

Children will bring home their sound bags, diaries and any letters or notes in a zip wallet which they will keep in their red book bags. Please put any letters for us in this zip bag to ensure we do not miss anything once their book bags get filled with pictures etc.

Please can we ask you to make sure your child's school uniform and belongings are **clearly named**. It is difficult to return lost items when we do not know who they belong to.

The children are allowed to drink throughout the day, however this should be water only. Please send in a named water bottle for them to access during the day. If you would like to provide a different drink for lunchtime then please do so, but no fizzy drinks please.

Books that are damaged will need to be paid for so please look after them carefully.

Allergies

Please be aware that we have children in school with **severe** nut allergies. We ask that no nuts are sent into school for packed lunches, snacks, birthdays, etc.

We look forward to getting to know all the children and to an exciting first term. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to come and see us.

Best wishes from the Early Years Team:

Miss Webb

Miss Culver-Spall

Miss Byrne

Miss Newman

Mrs Willgress

Miss Garner