



Foundation Stage Newsletter - Autumn Term 2011



Welcome to Early Years! The new school year is now well underway and the children are settling well. Some of them have found it difficult to say 'goodbye' in the morning but we can assure you that they are happy during the day, making new friends and are already making good use of all the activities and opportunities available to them in the classroom and outdoor areas. Thank you for your support in ensuring they have everything they need and for helping to prepare them for their transition into school.

Our topic for this half term is 'Stories' and we have started with Goldilocks and the Three Bears. We intend to start each half term with a new topic in mind and then follow the children's interests within it. We will also plan activities based around seasonal events as they arise e.g. Harvest, Autumn, Bonfire Night etc.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

We will focus on settling the children into school life – introducing and reinforcing the rules and routines that we follow. The children have already been encouraged to build new relationships, try new activities and show independence and organisation and this will continue throughout the term. We will also focus on sharing, turn taking and helping the children to deal appropriately with any difficulties they may face, as they arise.

Communication, Language and Literacy

We will be sharing lots of stories with familiar settings in order to encourage the children to talk about themselves, their families and their experiences. We will also sing lots of nursery and finger rhymes. We will practise holding pencils, and other 'mark making' equipment, using the correct grip and will practise writing our names and the new letters that we learn. In our daily phonics session we will play games that involve rhyme, alliteration, segmenting (splitting up sounds) and blending (putting sounds together) and will learn to recognise letters and the sounds that they represent.

Problem Solving Reasoning and Numeracy

We will learn songs that help us to count forwards, backwards, add one more and find one less. We will practise counting groups of objects accurately, matching them to their associated numeral, and vice versa. We will practise recognising, writing and ordering numbers and will talk about size and measuring in relation to the stories that we read.

Knowledge and Understanding of the World

We will spend time exploring the classroom and outdoor environments to find out what is available and what we can do there. We will enjoy lots of investigative activities linked to our stories such as touching, making and tasting porridge!

Physical Development

We will encourage the children to move safely and appropriately in the classroom and outdoor areas and to respect each other's space. We will practise making small and large-scale movements, demonstrating appropriate strength and control, by using the outdoor equipment and other activities such as threading and play-dough etc. In PE we will practise stopping and starting on instruction and exploring space, speed and direction. The children will be expected to dress themselves, and organise their kit, with increased independence as the term progresses.

Creative Development

The children will have lots of opportunities to paint, model, cut and stick independently. We will learn lots of new songs and will explore the class percussion instruments. We will provide the children with a varied, and ever-changing selection of 'role play' equipment e.g. dressing up clothes/shoes etc. in order that they can involve themselves in representational play and make sense of their own experiences.

Homework

Homework activity ideas will be displayed on the classroom window each week starting from Monday 3rd October. The activities will be based around the work we are doing in class and will be largely practical or 'talk' based. Sometimes we will ask that the children bring something in/produce work at home and that it is placed in the homework tray in our 'little room' when it is completed. For those of you that are not always able to drop off/pick up your child, the homework note will also be

available on our school website each week. Click on 'Our School', then 'Learning at Home' and then 'Early Years'.

Uniform

The children all look very smart in their new uniform. Thank you for labelling it so well. Please remember to send your child in clothing appropriate to the weather as they have access to the outdoor area for a large proportion of their day. Wellies should be brought to school on wet days.

PE

PE days are Mondays and Wednesdays. Please ensure that your child has their kit at school everyday in case other opportunities for PE arise and so that it can be used as a change of clothes should it be required. Please check your child's kit regularly to check that it still fits, that it is all there and that nobody else's kit has found it's way into your child's bag! Please help your child to become independent at undressing/dressing and to know how to organise their belongings. We are happy to help children with buttons, tights etc. if they ask us but cannot dress 30 children!

Library

The children will visit the school library on Friday each week, starting on Friday 30th September. Although we do guide them in their choice of book, the final choice is entirely their own! Library books are loaned so that you can enjoy sharing stories with your child at home and also to teach them about taking care of the things around them. Please return your child's book each Friday so that they can choose a new one.

Requests

We are always grateful for small boxes/junk for the children to build with e.g. raisin/oxo boxes etc. and also shiny paper/sweet wrappers/ribbon etc. for the children to cut and stick with.

General Reminders

- Our classroom is open from 8.45am for you to hand your child over to the teacher. The door will close at 8.55am for security reasons. Anyone arriving after this time should report to the office and will be marked as late in the register.
- Snacks should be fruit or vegetables only and should be put in the children's drawer each morning.
- Children are handed out individually to parents/carers at 3.15pm. This can be time consuming but please bear with us as it is for the children's safety.
- Dinner money should be placed in a named envelope and brought in on a Monday for the week. Please put money and letters in the tray in our 'little room'.
- Notes/requests are displayed in the classroom window. Please check this regularly.

Dates for your diaries

7th October: Jeans for Genes Day – children may wear denim items to school and bring a donation for genetic research.

11th/12th October: Parent Interviews – a letter will be sent out nearer the time for you to book an appointment with us to discuss your child's progress.

2nd November 9-10 am: Literacy Skills meeting – a meeting for parents/carers to explain how we teach reading and writing and how you can support your child with their reading when they start to bring their own reading book home that month.

9th November 9- 10am: Early Years Profile meeting – a meeting for parents/carers to explain how we assess the children's progress in Early Years.

17th November 2.45 pm: Early Years Class Assembly – the children perform for their parents/carers and the rest of the school. THE PART TIME CHILDREN ARE INVITED TO STAY ALL DAY FOR THIS PERFORMANCE.

Thank you for your continuing support. Starting school can be a bit daunting for children and their families and we recognise that there is lots of new information to take in so please come and chat to us if you have any questions or queries.

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