

# Foundation Stage Newsletter

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2018



Dear Parents,

Welcome to the Foundation Stage.

Firstly we would like to let everyone know how well the children have settled in to their new class. Every child is becoming more confident and independent in accessing resources around the classroom and it is so wonderful to see many new friendships blossoming!

This newsletter contains useful information about what you should expect from the Autumn Term.

**Autumn**



**Term**

Our planning is predominantly centered on the children's interests and needs through themes and daily activities, which are organised to challenge children and stretch their imaginative skills. An exciting aspect of our work in the Foundation Stage is that we often work from the children's interests and 'fascinations'. This means we are flexible in our planning and the children have an opportunity to choose the direction a theme takes. It also offers them flexibility on how long we spend on each theme. As the children are directly involved in our planning they get so much more out of their time at school so we thank you in advance for supporting our strange topics and requests!

Over the term the children will be continuing to settle into their new classroom as well as developing key skills as outlined below.

## **Personal, Social and Emotional Development**

As the children enter this new social environment they are encouraged to make new friends, to share and to take turns. The children will be encouraged to become independent learners in the classroom and this includes becoming familiar with classroom routines.

## **Mathematics**

In the foundation stage our Mathematical development falls into two categories-

**1. Numbers** We introduce numbers 1 to 10 over the term and help the children recognise and write them. We do a lot of counting, sorting and organising groups of real objects in class, sometimes involving larger numbers.

At home you could help by saying number names in counting everyday objects (touching each object and saying one number name for each)

Repeating songs and rhymes like '1 2 3 4 5, once I caught a fish alive' and '1 2 buckle my shoe'.

Understanding different values of numbers starts with many stories like 'The Enormous Turnip' or songs and rhymes like '5 little speckled frogs' and '10 fat sausages'.

Children will soon be able to say the number that is one more or one less than a given number.

## **2. Shape, Space and Measure**

At school and home we can help children thread beads and arrange toys and construction kits so they learn to talk about, recognise and recreate simple patterns, using everyday words like 'in front', 'behind', 'beside', to describe position. Helping unload shopping, and playing in the kitchen helps children develop language such as 'circle' and 'bigger' to describe the shape and size of solids and flat shapes; and 'greater', 'smaller', 'heavier', or 'lighter' to compare quantities.

## **Communication and Language**

The children will be developing key skill such as listening and following instructions, sharing ideas and opinions with others and extending their vocabulary by exploring the meaning and sounds of new words.

## **Literacy**

We will be using a strategy called Talk4writing which encourages the children to become immersed into the text using words, pictures (in the form of a story map) and actions; you can encourage your child to demonstrate and recall the story. Over the term we will be helping children to develop their reading and writing skills by having a big focus on our daily phonics activities. The children will be beginning to learn how to identify sounds in words and how to segment or blend them. You can help at home by completing phonics homework and by reading as often as possible with your child. We will be setting up a variety of activities to develop children's fine motor skills, which will aid their mark making and emergent writing.

## **Expressive Art and Design**

The children will be developing their creative skills by expressing their ideas and feelings through music, art, dance and drama. The children will be building a repertoire of songs and dances and will be given the opportunity to explore musical instruments. The class have continuous access to a large range of construction and craft materials to aid their learning in this area.

## **Understanding the World**

The children will be developing their ICT skills by learning how to use a variety of APPs on the ipads and the New Interactive Table in the 'open area' that the children will be able to access, including programming Scratch Jr. The children will be developing an understanding of growth, decay and changes over time.

## **Physical Development**

This year our reception class have time reserved for P.E and we have hall slots for our classes. However physical development happens every day in our Early Years environment and adult directed activities planned to develop children's gross and fine motor skills could happen any day of the week so we ask for PE kits to be left in school all week and be taken home half-termly. We will let you know when we need you to bring the P.E. kits in.

## **General Information**

Each child will have their own book entitled 'My Learning Journal'. In these books we will keep evidence of your child's learning and samples of work. Alongside this photo observations are recorded on 2Simple 'Build a Profile', this year we will be looking at how we can share this with parents via a secure online system. We value any contribution that you would like to make to this in helping us meet your child's needs. Regular 'Did you know?' sheets will be sent home so if your child does something fantastic at home you can write it down, or email us, supporting photographs are always fantastic too. We will shortly be sending home information on how to access your child's 'Build a Profile' online record so you can view it and add comment from home. This scheme is completely confidential so parents will only have access to their child's record.

During the term we will be gradually introducing the children to reading books. It is vital for your child's literacy development that you listen to your child read as often as possible at home, just 3 times a week can have a bit impact on progress. If your child is not ready for a reading book we will let them choose a book to take home which they can share with you.

Your child's reading record log is a great way of recording what they have read at home and school, it is also a way you can communicate any concerns, questions or positive comments you have about your child's reading.

## Book bags and the morning/afternoon routine.

Some of you have been asking about Book Bags, unfortunately there has been a slight delay with these this year; we are hoping to be able to give them out by the end of the month. We want to encourage you to enjoy books with your child, so you **are free to borrow a book from our book corner every day**. Please bring the book you have read back to the book corner with your child, and choose a new book with them.

**Recognising Individuals book bags** - whilst these will all be labelled it would be very helpful if you could also **put something identifiable on it** (a key ring or ribbon around the handle, for example) so your child can quickly find their own book bag.

**Rhyme books** We will soon be starting to use our 'homework packs' - to begin with these will include 'My Favourite Rhymes' - a folder to which a new nursery rhyme is added every week. We also have a big book copy in class to share. Children love to learn rhymes, and studies show that **children who have a good knowledge of nursery rhymes when they are young read better at the end of primary school**. We hope you will have fun reading and enjoying the rhymes together.

All parents are welcome to join us for a cup of tea on Friday 21st September, from 1.30-3.00 in the garden - if fine! It is a great opportunity to get to know others.



## Please note these general reminders...

\* The Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum provides learning opportunities through activities inside and outside the classroom. Therefore we advise that your child wears a warm/rainproof coat to school (with their name in it), cotton or denim jackets are not suitable, please keep some wellies on the boot pegs, in order for them to experience outside play. We are outside in most weathers!

\* **Forest School** - 'Forest school' is a way of working with children in the outdoors which builds their confidence, self-esteem and connection with nature. We are lucky enough to have a Forest School area in the corner of the school field. Mrs Callender, Mrs Huntley Hart and Mrs Tiller are 'forest school practitioners'. U.K. and Austria class will take part in Forest School activities on Wednesday - starting on Wednesday 26th September. Everyone will need to wear old trousers and long-sleeved tee-shirts in line with our risk assessments and policies. Quality of experience is directly linked to having high levels of adult helpers on site to support with activities, the more helpers the more experiences on offer; as such a sign up sheet with dates on will be coming home soon.

\* We encourage bottles of water to be sent with each child. These are kept in class and children have free access to them. Please make sure they are named.

\* We ask parents to label **EVERYTHING** with your child's name (including all clothing, hats, gloves, water bottles, book bags and lunchboxes) - we already have stray jumpers without names!

\* If you have a skill or talent that you would like to share and talk about with the children please let us know, we would love to have you in! (You may be an enthusiastic sports person, great story teller, musician, carpenter/builder, work with the police/ambulance etc.)

\* We are looking forward to seeing parents at our 'Meet the Teacher' evening on Wednesday 26th September at 7.00. It is an informal meeting where we can spend time with you in the new classrooms and answer any questions you may have.

Some of the children are now coming into the school independently and we would therefore like to take this opportunity to promote this further. As from **Monday 17th September** we would like the children to line up in the front playground prior to entering the school and thus enable the children to enter the cloakroom and class without the support of their parents. The Reception Class team will support the children with finding their pegs and settling them into school thereby ensuring that we are able to establish a clear routine and maximise the time that the children are in school.

\* Cloakrooms - in order to enable every child to access their possessions easily we ask that the children bring in anything they need in a Draw String bag. This will enable them all to be hung on individual pegs and allow space for the coats to hang over the top.

*\* Resources*

We are very fortunate to have a very well resourced Foundation Stage classroom but are always looking for new things to enhance our provision! Currently we would like:

- Any unwanted pots, pans and metal kitchen utensils! We would like to further develop our mud kitchen.
- Any white sheets for flags
- Tubes, boxes and cartons for our modeling table.

**Dates for your Diary**

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> September - Please come and join us for a cup of tea and a biscuit to meet new friends at 2pm in our Early Years Garden.

Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> September - Pulborough Harvest Fayre

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> September - Meet the Teacher 7pm, find out more about class routines and expectations.

Thursday 11th October - School Photographs

Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> October - Coffee Morning/Information for New Starters

**Half Term** Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> October - Friday 26th October

INSET Monday 29<sup>th</sup> October

Early Years Christmas Nativity Monday 10<sup>th</sup> December 1.30pm and 6pm

Led by a Star Friday 14th December 6pm

Last day of term Wednesday 19th December

Our main aim is to ensure your child feels happy and safe in school, so please do not hesitate to ask us if you have any questions regarding your child. We are aware that some children will not initially cope with full days. We are more than happy to work with you to ensure that your child has an enjoyable first few weeks at school. We are happy to discuss half days with you if your child is not coping. Please speak to us if you are concerned.

We suggest that the best time to talk to staff is after school when the rest of the children have been collected. Many thanks.

Lee Callender and Emma Huntley-Hart