

Early Years Welcome Letter

Dear parents and carers,

We are very much looking forward to the term ahead and helping our lovely children settle back into school life. We also look forward to welcoming our new Nursery friends and the Reception pupils who are joining our school.

This term in early years we are working in a slightly different way in order to keep everyone safe and are organised into three early years bubbles.

Miss Rowell and Mrs Smith are with our Nursery pupils in the early years classroom. Mrs Young, Mrs Kebell and Miss Green are with Reception pupils also in the early years classroom and Mrs Brown, Mrs Pike and Miss Thompson are with Reception pupils in the former Mondrian classroom.

Although physical mixing of the bubbles will be kept to a minimum, all early years staff will continue to work together to ensure your child receives the best possible educational experiences.

Unfortunately we have been unable to run our usual induction programme which included parent information meetings in the summer term and a curriculum evening in the autumn term. We therefore hope that you find the following information useful.

A reminder of our start and finish times.

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|------------|---------|---------|
| Nursery am | 8.30am | 11.30am |
| Nursery pm | 12.15pm | 3.15pm |
| Reception | 8.30am | 2.30pm |

Staff will meet pupils and escort their bubbles into and out of school each day. For safeguarding we must know who is collecting your child and you will have already completed a home time arrangements form. If arrangements change please inform school immediately. We have included a further form with this letter if needed.

EYFS Curriculum

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) has seven areas of learning designed to ignite children's curiosity to learn.

3 Prime Areas;

Communication and Language

Physical Development

Personal Social and Emotional Development

4 Specific Areas;

Literacy

Mathematics

Knowledge of the World

Expressive Art & Design

Our environment supports these seven areas and encourages exploration and play in order to learn. We continually observe children to support their development as learners.

The Early Years Characteristics of Effective Learning are as follows;

- Playing and learning – children investigate and experience things and have a go
- Active learning - children concentrate and keep on trying
- Creating and thinking critically - children have and develop their own ideas

Our school days are a balance of adult-led and child-initiated activities.

We will begin the school year with the themes;

Getting to know you & Good to be me.

Our themes will follow pupils' interests throughout the year.

Nursery pupils will have daily small group carpet times and Reception pupils will be taught phonics and mathematics each day. Both groups will enjoy lots of stories as experience shows that children benefit greatly from exposure to books at a very young age.

In Nursery we teach Phase 1 phonics from the Letters and Sounds programme which supports Communication, Language and Literacy. In particular, it will support linking sounds and letters in the order in which they occur in words, and naming and sounding the letters of the alphabet. The activities in Phase One are mainly adult-led with the intention of teaching young children important basic phonic elements such as oral segmenting and blending of familiar words.

Activities within the seven aspects of Phase 1 are designed to help children:

- listen attentively;
- enlarge their vocabulary;
- speak confidently to adults and other children;
- discriminate phonemes;
- reproduce audibly the phonemes they hear, in order, all through the word;
- use sound-talk to segment words into phonemes.

Reception pupils will be taught reading through high quality daily phonics lessons. As well as working on phase 1, they will learn Phase 2 Letters and Sounds. The purpose of this phase is to teach at least 19 letters and by the end of the phase children will be able to read;

- some vc words eg) is, at, in, on
- some cvc words eg) top, sock, cat

They will also learn some high frequency tricky words eg) no, go, to, the, I

Letter progression for Phase 2;

- Set 1: s a t p
- Set 2: i n m d
- Set 3: g o c k
- Set 4: ck e u r
- Set 5: h b f ff l ll ss

Children will learn to say the letter sound alongside the name of the letter. We teach actions to support letter and sound recognition.

Pupils will then progress to Phase 3 Letters and Sounds.

Staff are highly skilled at observing children and matching activities to pupils individual needs. With phonics it must always be remembered that it is the step up to word recognition. Automatic reading of all words – decodable and tricky – is the ultimate goal.

We use the Oxford Reading Tree scheme in school and when Reception children begin to take books home they should read often in an enjoyable and relaxed way. We have a reward scheme for children to be rewarded for their efforts at home. We shall send a further letter when we begin our Home Reading once the children are settled.

In Nursery children take part in maths activities on a daily basis where they learn new skills such as counting, recognising numerals, sorting objects and recognising shapes.

In Reception children will be taught mathematics daily.

They will learn to;

- Count reliably up to 20 everyday objects and beyond
- Recognise numerals 1 to 20
- In practical activities begin to use the vocabulary involved in adding and subtracting
- Use language such as 'more' or 'less'
- Say the number that is 1 more or less
- To solve simple problems
- Use everyday language to talk about size, weight, capacity, position, distance, time and money to compare quantities and objects and to solve simple problems.
- Recognise, create and describe patterns.
- Explore the characteristics of everyday objects and shapes and use mathematical language to describe them.

We have a maths investigation area indoors and out so that children can practise the concepts they have learned.

Our Religious Education Topics for autumn term are as follows;

Myself God knows and loves each one

Welcome Baptism: a welcome to God's family

Judaism Hanukkah

Birthday Looking forward to Jesus' birthday

Physical Development

Reception pupils will have PE on Tuesdays and will be required to wear **PE uniform**. Pupils should come to school in an outdoor kit on the days they have PE.-this could consist of a school PE t-shirt, school jumper or tracksuit top/hoodie, trainers and tracksuit/ jogging bottoms.

All children will have daily access to the outdoor area to support their physical development.

Nursery pupils will need a pair of clearly named wellies for playing in the EYFS garden.

Water bottles - Children must bring a washable water bottle, clearly labelled with their name. This should be taken home to be washed daily.

Homework-

Reception pupils will be given weekly homework tasks once they are settled in school.

These will include;

Reading books

Weekly Spellings

Learning letter sounds & names

Challenges

Nursery pupils will have their own homework challenges from time to time.

All parents will be asked to contribute to their child's learning journal by filling out star moments when pupils have achieved a new skill. We shall send a star moment example and template later in the month.

When homework tasks or reading books are returned they will be laid aside for at least 72 hours before they are handled.

EYFS Fund

We request a voluntary donation of £1 each week for our early years fund which we use to buy resources for our pupils. These kind donations should be placed in an envelope and sent into school on a Monday.

Clothes

We ask that your child has a full spare set of clothes including underwear to remain in school in a bag on their peg. This does not need to be school uniform T-shirts & joggers will be fine.

We ask that they are able to identify their own coat and that all items of uniform, spare clothes and shoes are clearly named.

Our Reception class is named Goldsworthy after the British artist and sculptor so look out for this name on newsletters. Our Nursery class is named Einstein after the physicist so again look out for this name on Newsletters. Collectively we are referred to as the early years.

We will keep you updated with regular information about our early years curriculum as we progress through the term.

Our pupils' well-being remains our utmost priority at this time. Please contact us if you have any questions or concerns, no matter how small, which staff will be more than happy to address and we can continue to work together to ensure our pupils thrive.

We are extremely grateful for your support during these times and look forward to a happy and successful year in school.

Kind regards,

The Early Years Team

