

Newsletter 9th September 2016

Welcome to our first newsletter!

Everyone has come into school with smiles and enthusiasm, parents and children. It was so lovely to see the children in their uniforms and looking so smart.

We have started familiarising all the children with the daily routine and our expectations; we have looked at the 4 different rooms/areas and all the variety of activities we will have available. They have all adapted to their new environments very well and made lots of new friends.

We started our phonics work this week with the phonemes (sounds) **s** and **a**. You may have noticed the actions and sounds they are sharing at home. We are using a phonics programme called Letters and Sounds and a computer program called Espresso to enhance our lessons. The children are being taught phonics with their own class teacher until we have a bank of sounds and we can assess the children's progress.

We are using a maths resource called Numicon in our lessons. We introduced it to the children this week and they thoroughly enjoyed using it. We looked at the different pieces and what they represent. The children coped with this very well and enjoyed their very first maths lessons 😊. Each child has a set of Numicon pieces in school to work with - please allow the children to become familiar with the resource before you consider buying any items for home.

When your child left pre-school you will have been given their Learning Journey and a Summary of Progress sheet; we would be grateful if you could give this to your child's teacher next week, to look through. We will be able to use this towards their baseline assessment. This is assessment data we create to establish where your children are currently working and this then informs and directs our planning. We use the document "Development Matters" for our assessments and guidance for progress. We will hand the Learning Journals back to you once we have completed our assessments.

Stars of the Day are chosen randomly each morning as part of our daily routine. The children wear a sticker and do a variety of "special jobs", and they love it!! Everyone will get a turn to be the star of the day.

Next Week

On Monday we will have our very first PE lesson for both classes. Can we ask that all PE kits are in school on Monday morning please. These can stay in school until half term when we will send them home. The children will need a white t shirt, navy shorts and a pair of black pumps. The children have the option to work in the hall in bare feet.

Our phonics work will include the new letter sounds **t** and **p**. We will look at the sounds they make, the action associated with this and we will listen for words that have this letter sound at the beginning, middle or end. We will practice writing them and we will

begin to segment and blend the new sounds to form words like **sat, pat, at, as, tap**. This can be a lengthy process for children to grasp and we will ensure the children have lots of opportunities to practice this each phonics session.

In our Maths work we will be using the Numicon to order the numbers 1 - 10 and matching the Numicon piece to the numeral. We will be working in small groups and counting objects, matching a set of numbers to the corresponding Numicon piece.

As the children will be in until 1.30pm all week, they will be staying for their lunch. The children are able to have a free school meal each day or bring their own packed lunch. Any lunch bags should be clearly named. We will stay in the dinner hall with the children to settle them in.

Reminders

In the water bottles we ask for water only. This drink is accessible throughout the day and we will re-fill when empty.

We encourage healthy snacks such as fruit, raisins and vegetables. We are a nut and kiwi free school so please be thoughtful when purchasing snacks items.

Please ensure that no toys are brought in from home. We find that they often get lost, accidently broken, or go missing. Children do get very upset when this happens.

Any sun cream is to be applied before coming into school; we will always ensure the children are not outside in very warm weather.

Each child will need a blue school reading bag for any letters and pictures and eventually their own reading books, and a drawstring PE bag, both named. The children do not need to bring in extra bags as the space is very limited.

Please remember that as a team we work in partnership with our parents at all times. If you have any queries, worries or concerns please talk to your class teacher; we have an open door policy and we are always looking for ways to develop our practice.

Homework

As we are starting our PE sessions we would like you to encourage your children to dress and undress themselves as often as possible. This will give them confidence in school.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mrs J Dodd

Mrs K Heywood

Mrs Z Richardson