

Newsletter 23rd September 2016

Our first full week and everyone has had a brilliant week, but the children are very tired. We keep hearing from parents that the children are in bed very early each night and it is tricky to get them up in the morning!

Of course this will be because we have been so busy in our learning. Our routine is pretty much established in the mornings with register, lunch choices, the important Star of the Day and the transporting of the register to the office, the calendar and weather. The Office team report that all the children are friendly and very polite and they are super impressed!

Phonics

Phonics this week have included the sounds i, n and c. We are continuing to expose the children to blending words together each daily phonics session, this can often be a tricky concept for children to grasp but we will re-enforce this daily.

Maths

In our Maths lessons we have looked at 2D shapes. Primarily we looked at circles, triangles, rectangles and squares. We have identified them, handled them, sorted them, described them and looked at their properties e.g. Do they have sides or are they smooth? Do they have any corners? We have also been using lots of mathematical language each day to increase our understanding.

School rules

We have spoken to the children about the school rules and our behaviour system "Good to be Green". They may have come home telling you that they had a token which is always linked to our "core values" - Respect, Responsibility, Aspiration and Pride. The children have been very excited when they get a token. 😊

Challenge Activities

We have introduced our "challenge activities" to the children this week, you may have seen the stickers? The children are encouraged to develop their own independence and learning through independent play and choice. We do however have whole class and small group teaching sessions and we ask that the children complete "challenges" throughout the week to develop their fine motor skills, number or phonics skills or it may be craft or outside activities. Once the children have completed this work they are rewarded with a sticker.

Lunch routine

The children are confident at lunch times and are eating their lunches very well. A member of our team is in the dinner hall with the children every day to supervise and support. Some of the packed lunches are rather large and we will send home everything each day so that you can see what they have eaten. The Midday team reward good behaviours at lunch time by giving out golden tokens. Every fourth Friday the class that has the most is treated to a Golden table experience!

If you have any concerns about lunchtimes then please talk to a member of the team.

Class Assembly

On Friday afternoons we have a class assembly where we will choose children who have been "super" during the week. This can be for a number of reasons; kindness, friendship, excellent work or super involvement in the lessons. We reward the children by presenting a certificate to 2 children from each class each week for this. We also give a certificate for good reading as part of our phonics sessions. This is again for 2 children from each class. We will ensure that all children will be included and their achievements celebrated.

Transition from Pre-School

For some children the transition from a Pre-school setting to Reception can seem very daunting and there may be tears. This is perfectly normal. The classes are larger; we are new to them and the environment and rules can seem very different. Look what they have achieved in 3 weeks! We are all very skilled in dealing with emotional children (and parents) and will always strive for families to become settled and happy. ☺

Next Week

Our phonemes this week will be d, g and o. We will focus on the actions associated with these letter sounds (we follow Jolly Phonics) and have a variety of games and activities to support this. In maths work we will revisit using our Numicon. We will be using the Numicon to put two pieces together and find different ways to make 6, 8 and 10.

When the children take off their jumpers or cardigans we encourage them to put them item in their tray however they are 4 and 5 years of age and are thinking of so many things each day and they can forget! We can always support them with this but we need names in everything and on everything too!

To aid our PE sessions we would welcome your support over the next few weeks/months by allowing your child to dress and undress themselves. Some of the children were able to undress but were not sure how to turn their clothes the correct way around or how to put them back on again. This can be tricky and we will support all children but it is a skill that will hold them in good stead throughout their school life.

Homework

As we have been covering shapes this week, we would like you to spend some time over the weekend or when you are out and about looking for 2D shapes in the home or the environment. We usually share the homework task in "show and tell" which will be on a Friday afternoon after lunchtime. We link this to the homework task to give the children the opportunity to share this with their peers in small groups. You can send photographs in to show what you have found or make notes for us to prompt the children to share.

Have a great weekend.

Mrs J Dodd

Mrs K Heywood

Mrs Z Richardson