

Early Years Newsletter 15th September 2017

Our learning this week

We have continued our phonics work this week with the phonemes (sounds) t and p. You may have noticed the actions and sounds they are sharing at home. The children are responding very well to the phonics teaching. In our phonics sessions, we look at the “sound” and the words related to the sound. We are beginning to introduce how to blend the letter sounds together for form words, e.g. t – a – p - tap, p – a – t – pat. –This is the start of reading skills and as our sessions continue, we will introduce more opportunities to support reading and writing.

In our maths lessons, we have used the Numicon for matching and counting 1 - 10. The children have worked in small groups this week counting objects and matching it to the corresponding Numicon piece. All the children were engaged and active learners.

Our first PE lesson on Monday morning was great fun. Thank you to all our families that had spent some time letting their children dress and undress, Mrs Morton was very impressed. PE kits are left in school until half term and then sent home with the children to be washed and returned at the start of the new half term.

Our parents “come dine with me” on Thursday was brilliant. Thank you to all our families who attended and for the lovely comments about school. The EY team were pleased to hear that the children are thoroughly enjoying their time with us.

For some children the transition from Pre-school to Reception can seem very daunting and there may be some tears. This is perfectly normal. The classes are larger; we are new to them and the environment and rules can seem very different. Look at what they have achieved in just 2 weeks. As a team, we are all very skilled in dealing with emotional children (and parents) and will always strive for our families to become settled and happy.

Thank you to everyone who has brought in their child’s learning journal. Once our baseline assessment is completed, they will be returned to you. We have also liaised with all the previous pre-school settings to enable us to get a clear picture of all the children.

Next Week

We will be in school for our first full week. The school day ends at 3.15pm and the front and back gates will be open. We are expecting the children will be very tired especially when you pick them up in the afternoons. However, they do adapt very quickly.

Our phonics work will include the new letter sounds i, n and c. 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. 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 focussing on 2D shapes and their properties. We will use the language associated with the shapes such as flat, corners, sides.

On Friday 22nd September, the whole school will experience a Geography day “The World is full of Adventures”, which is very exciting. Early Years will be having a Bollywood dancer come into school to show us some traditional Indian clothing and to teach us some dance moves. If you would like to come to school at 2:45 pm then you would be welcome to come and watch them perform a dance!!

Next week it will be week 3 on the lunch menu, it has been wonderful to see how confident the children are in the dinner hall and they are beginning to form relationships with the mid-day assistants and the kitchen staff. Keep sharing the menu with your children beforehand; it helps them to know what to expect. If you feel they will not eat the meal available you are able to send a packed lunch in with your child in the morning. Please ensure that your child's lunchbox is clearly labelled and they will need a drink including in their lunch bag in addition to their water bottle for the classroom.

Reminders

We already have three sweatshirts that have gone missing. When the children take off their sweatshirts or cardigans we encourage them to put them into their tray however as they are 4 or 5 years of age and they are thinking of so many other things they can forget!

In the water bottles we ask for water only. This drink is accessible throughout the day and we will re-fill when empty. There is always fresh drinking water available on our snack table for the children to access. If there is a problem, please speak to Mrs Dodd.

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 or stationary items are brought in from home. We find that they often get lost, accidentally broken, or go missing!! Children do get very upset when this happens.

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 each day, 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

We would like you to encourage your children to dress and undress themselves as often as possible. This will give them confidence in school. We would like your child to bring a baby picture of themselves to share in our show and tell session on Friday 22nd September. Have a lovely weekend.

Mrs J Dodd

Mrs S Morton

Mrs Z Richardson