

Early Years Newsletter 12th October 2018

Phonics

Phonics this week has included the sounds e, u and r and the tricky word I. We have been working with the children on using the existing sounds we know and blending them together. We were delighted to see so many of our families attending our phonics drop in sessions this week, the children were delighted to show how much they have learnt this half term. If you were unable to come, and would like to, please speak to Mrs Dodd to arrange a mutually convenient time. In maths this week we have been focussing on numbers 1 - 10. We have looked at the ordering of the numbers, used number lines and one more and one less along a number line. Throughout the week, the children have been writing their first name, and our focus has been on a capital letter to start their name and correct letter formation, this has been a challenge job for all our children this week and they are writing their letters with correct formation and pencil control.

Photographs

Tempst the school photographer is now due into school **Thursday 15th November** for individual photographs and sibling portraits.

Parents as Partners

All our families will now have received a "Parents as Partner" form. This form allows you the opportunity to tell us as a team what has worked/not worked for you as a family. We use all comments to inform our practice and improve the service we currently provide. This term there is a particular focus on "transition" from pre-school to our Early Years classes. Please return these forms by the end of half term to allow us time to collate the information.

Next Week

Our phonemes next week will be **h, b, and f**. 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. We will introduce a new "tricky words" - **to** and **the**. A "tricky word" is a word that you cannot phonetically segment and blend, you just have to know it by sight. These words will be reinforced daily in their phonics sessions. In maths we will look at the numerals 1 - 10 and we will extend this up to 20. We will be using Numicon to support our learning. In our afternoon sessions, we will be talking about our experiences so far in school. We will use the all about me booklet you completed over the summer holidays and see if we addressed the children's apprehension before they started in September.

Reading Books

The children will have their first experience of reading with a member of our team this week and will be bringing home a reading book appropriate to their ability on Friday 19th October. This will be in their book bags and it will be accompanied by a reading diary. We ask that you listen to your child read at least 3 times a week and record their progress in their reading diary. We will read with the children individually next week and we will record our comments in green for you to see. The reading books will be situated in Mrs Richardson/Mrs Gatiss's classroom and a member of the team will be there to support the children with this new experience. You will be

able to change reading books every morning if needed and a new routine will be established. Please remember that you have the opportunity to make reading a really positive experience at home, the books are appropriate to where their phonic awareness is and we as a team will teach the children new skills in order to develop further.

Stay and Play

It will be our very first Stay and Play session on Monday 15th October 9.00am - 9.45am. Please try and stay and experience some of the activities that will be available and to share a special time together. If you are unable to attend, family members are always welcome. Attached is a copy of the activities available and you can share this together before you arrive.

Forest Schools - Friday 19th October

We have the fantastic opportunity to be involved in "Forest Schools" We will be working with a qualified instructor Mr Hadfield who will show the children how learning can be extended outdoors using natural materials and to respect the environment. We will need to come into school in our school uniform as normal and bring a change of clothes and wellies/suitable footwear for working outside. Please also send a lightweight coat in case of rain.

Thank you for the lovely homework pictures of special people and family members. The children were very engaged with this piece of homework and it generated a lot of lovely conversations about special times together. We always share the homework on Friday afternoons in our "Show and Tell" sessions". It is a special time for the children to be able to have the confidence to talk in front of a group of children. If you are unable to send anything in or complete the homework task, then please talk to your child's teacher. The children do get very disappointed when they have no homework to share with their peers.

Homework

As our maths focus has been numbers this week we ask that you practice counting with your children where ever your weekend takes you... counting in the car, the bath or on the way home from school. Numbers are just about everywhere and can often go un-noticed. Nothing formal to record; just a fun experience to share.

New Arrival



Welcome to our new school member, Devan has a new baby sister - Ella. Congratulations to the whole family.

Have a great weekend.

Thank you for all your support.

Mrs J Dodd

Mrs Gatiss

Mrs Z Richardson