

# Information Letter Autumn 2018

## Reception

### Our topic this term is **Marvellous Me and Rhyme Time**

The Reception base is comprised of 2 classes, **Horse Chestnut** and **Sweet Chestnut**. Your teachers are **Mrs Loveless** in Horse Chestnut and **Mrs B (Briggs-Davis)** in Sweet Chestnut. Our teaching assistants are: Mrs Greenhalgh, Mrs Shepherd, Mrs Mead, Mrs Culliford, Mrs LeMay, Mrs Luke and Mrs Rutter. The children use the whole base and the outside area during their learning activities.

All the children have settled in well and we have now put them into groups. There are 4 groups in each class and the children take part in activities in these groups for at least two sessions a day. 60% of the school week is adult led which includes daily whole class Literacy and Maths sessions, and weekly Music and PE sessions; 40% of the week is child initiated learning which we call *Let's Explore*.

We will be using a Baseline assessment to assess the level at which the children are working upon entry to school. Our Baseline scheme is based on observations of the children and how they learn. This forms the basis of our future planning in Reception.

This term we will begin with a mini topic of 'Marvellous Me' which is linked to our whole school PSHE curriculum called Jigsaw. We will be thinking about ourselves, our families and how we are the same and how we are different. We will then move on to 'Rhyme Time' where each week will be themed around a different familiar nursery rhyme. Also this term we will be celebrating Harvest and Christmas and taking part in activities linked to Bonfire Night and Arts Week.

#### **How my child will be learning**

The EYFS Framework explains how and what your child will be learning to support their development. Your child will be learning skills, acquiring new knowledge and demonstrating their understanding through **7 areas of learning and development**.

Children should mostly develop the **3 prime areas** first. These are:

**Communication and Language;**  
**Physical Development; and**  
**Personal, Social and Emotional Development.**

These prime areas are those most essential for your child's healthy development and future learning. As children grow, the prime areas will help them to develop skills in **4 specific areas**. These are:

**Literacy;**  
**Mathematics;**  
**Understanding the world; and**  
**Expressive Arts and Design.**

These 7 areas are used to plan your child's learning and activities. The professionals teaching and supporting your child will make sure that the activities are suited to your child's unique needs. This is a little bit like a curriculum in Key Stage 1 and beyond, but it's suitable for very young children, and it's designed to be really flexible so that staff can follow your child's unique needs and interests.

Children in the EYFS learn by playing and exploring, being active, and through creative and critical thinking which takes place both indoors and outside.

## Communication, Language & Literacy

We use Letters and Sounds to teach phonics for reading and spelling and incorporate the actions from Jolly Phonics. This gives the children a multi-sensory approach and enables them to build up words very quickly. Flash cards of the sounds and words will be sent home at approx. 4 per week.



### **You can help by:**

- Looking at and practising the sounds and actions they have learned each week.
- Build words together using the flash cards sent home.
- We will send home words to learn, these words cannot be decoded by sounding out and have to be learned by sight (tricky words).

## Reading Books

We will be shortly be sending home books without words for you and your child to share together. This is an important stage of their reading to get them confident with handling books and developing their story language. Along with this we will be sending home short captions for your child to practise reading using the letter sounds we have learnt.



Please encourage your child to sound out each letter when reading. We will constantly be assessing the children's knowledge of the sounds and when we feel they are ready for books with words, we will let you know. Please try to read every day at home when books are sent home.

## Writing

- When helping your child to write, always encourage them to sit and hold the pencil correctly; it is very difficult to correct an incorrect pencil grip later on. We use an infant print style. (cursive starts in year 1)
- We encourage the children to use emergent writing. The children record the letter sounds they can hear in each word; this may only be the first sound initially.

## Library

- Children will visit the school library each week and bring a book home for you to read to your child. Please make sure the library book is in their book bag each week for this session (**day to be advised**). The children will not be allowed to choose a new library book until the previous one has been returned.

## Mathematics

This area of learning includes counting, matching, sorting and patterns through working with numbers, shape, space and measures. We will be encouraging the children to look for patterns, to sort and order a variety of objects.

### **You can help by:**

- Counting together, for example when you climb the stairs to help ordering.
- Cooking together uses mathematical language: the same, a little more, less etc.
- Learning and saying number rhymes.
- Looking for numbers and shapes e.g. house numbers and road signs.
- Talk about and say days of the week and months of the year which is early time work.



## Physical Development

This gives the children the opportunity to develop their skills of co-ordination, control, manipulation and movement. It encourages the development of both gross and fine motor skills. We will be practising fine motor skills by using a variety of different small tools such as pencils, pens, scissors, brushes as well as pegboards, pegs and threading activities. The children are encouraged to think about keeping healthy and active.

PE will take place on a Wednesday and Friday during the Autumn term.

## **Expressive Art & Design**

This area of learning includes art, music, dance and imaginative play. The children will be able to share their thoughts and explore their own ideas and feelings.

## **Understanding of the World**

We will be concentrating on settling in and finding our way around school. We shall be learning about the changing seasons through nature walks in the school grounds. We will ask questions about why things happen and how they work.

## **Other Information**

Please send in a **named** water bottle to keep in the classroom. **No juice please.**

We record your child's learning using individual portfolios through Seesaw which allows you to access the photographs we take and comments made. You will be provided with a unique login for your child and will be able to view our fantastic learning.

We would also like you to contribute to our class "star" walls in the cloakroom areas. Please write on a star recording any significant "wow" moments you have noticed at home: eg. .... did their coat up on their own, .....read the number 62 on a house door on the way to school, ..... spoke to granny on the telephone, ..... got dressed on his own, or ..... rode her bike without stabilisers.

### ***Other ways you can help by:***

- **Making sure all uniform is named**
- **Making sure all PE kit is named**
- **Making sure drink bottles/lunch boxes are named.**
- **Making sure PE kit is in school**
- **Encourage your child to dress and undress themselves.**

**It is difficult to return un-named items to the correct child. Please check all items, especially t-shirts, skirts and trousers.**

Your child is entitled to **free school milk** until they are 5. Please see your child's class teacher about what to do if your child would still like milk after they turn 5.