

Welcome to what we hope is going to be a fantastic and exciting year for your child!
As the new school year begins, we would like to give you some information about what we will be doing in school this half-term.

Communication and Language

We will have a big focus on developing listening skills.
We will encourage the children to:
Listen carefully to stories and remember what happens in them.
Listen carefully to rhymes and songs, paying attention to how they sound.
Maintain attention in whole class and small group sessions for a short time.
You can encourage all of this at home by sharing books together and asking open-ended questions to your child about their day.

Physical Development

Children will practice negotiating space and awareness when moving around an area. They will also become aware of lining up/forming a queue.
Fine motor skills will be encouraged through cutting with scissors, painting and writing.
Simple ball skills such as throwing and catching will begin to be developed.
At home, you can help your child by encouraging them to use small controlled movements with a range of different tools e.g. knife and fork, pens, pencils.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Our main focus this half-term will be getting to grips with daily routines of school life. We will be working together in small groups, taking turns and sharing. Co-operation with others will be a big focus too; children will start to develop an awareness of their own feelings and how to manage them in different situations.
Practicing putting coats, shoes and clothes on independently at home will help hugely!

Our themes for this Half-term: Starting School All About Me

Maths

This half term will be an opportunity for the children to settle in and be introduced to the areas of provision inside and outside. Children will work on their basic mathematical knowledge through play, where they will learn about key times of day, class routines, and think about where things belong. This is key in starting to develop positional language and awareness which all contributes to mathematical understanding.

Literacy

Children will be expected to hold a book correctly, handle it with care and turn the pages from front to back.
We will encourage children to write in every area of the classroom and will start to work on phonics. Children will learn to write their names and begin to recognise the letters that make their name.
At home - Writing their names and starting to form letters will be of great benefit!

Understanding the World

Children will talk about members of their immediate family and the relationship to them and will name and describe people who are familiar to them. We will encourage children to talk about and describe features of their own family in school and at home, and talk about families in other countries across the world.

Expressive Arts and Design

Safely use and explore a variety of materials and tools, children will represent their own ideas, thoughts and feelings through role-play. There will be many creative activities using a range of media.
Role play scenarios e.g. making dinner, and having a picnic will greatly enhance this at home!

Key Things to remember

PE will start this week and will be every Wednesday. Your child should come to school wearing their PE kit and will stay in this all day.

Please provide a bottle of water daily.

Children should come to school with an appropriate coat (and hood) regardless of the weather. They should also bring in a pair of wellies that can be kept in school.

Please name everything!

School starts at 8.45am and finishes at 3.15pm. *The first couple of weeks will be a bit crazy whilst children settle into home time routines – Please be patient!*



Important info:

Please remember to send your child to school wearing their PE kit each Wednesday.

Please remember to send a pair of named wellies (to be kept in school).

Please send in a picture of your child with their immediate family/special people to add to our Family Tree.

Dates:

Parent's Evening Monday 20th October

I will let you know of any further dates on Seesaw

Seesaw:

Seesaw is now up and running and you will gradually see more and more snapshots of your child throughout their day... Seesaw is also a good means of staying in touch if you cannot catch me before school/at home time. I check in regularly and will always try to respond to messages within a reasonable time.

Birthdays

We love to celebrate your child's birthday with you! Be reassured we will make a fuss of them on their special day...Can we ask that you don't send sweets in with your child for their birthday as we try to promote healthier choices in school. However, a class book to share together or any other non-sweet options are suggested if you would like to send something in. Your child can also wear their own clothes on the day of their birthday!

Reading:

Reading Books will be sent home with your child shortly. We believe that reading is a life skill that supports children in all areas of their lives. Reading with your child really does help with reading confidence and reading regularly encourages good study habits as your child moves through school. Please can you support your child by reading/discussing the book at least three times a week at home with your child. Please record and sign this in their planner. Books will be changed once a week and the books will match your child's reading ability – as this stage every child will have a picture book so that you can discuss what is happening in the pages. This will progress to a book with words when your child is ready.

Books and planners need to be in school every day.

Further information will be sent alongside your child's reading book.

I have challenged the children to read a Bedtime Story at home. If your child does then then please send a picture of them in so that I can add it to our Reading Wall. We will also be entered into our whole-school reading challenge. The more children who read, the better our chances of winning! The winning class receives a set of books to add to their class libraries.

Thanks for all of your support so far, your children have been wonderful!