

# Year R Newsletter - Issue 1

## Welcome

We would like to say a huge well done to all our children for settling so well into their new school. They have already picked up school routines and settled into school life very quickly. We really enjoy seeing such happy children accessing our learning environment and enjoying each other's company.

## Baseline Assessment

During the first two weeks we have been completing an initial assessment on your child. All of our assessments are completed through observation and interaction of play activities so the children won't even be aware it has happened.

## Topic

Now we are in week 3 we are settling in to our new school routines. We have started our topic all about 'Ourselves!' We will be learning about our bodies and teaching each other about ourselves. We will also be learning about each other's families, pets, friends, homes and feelings. We will also be investigating our five senses and how they help us every day. In Literacy we will be learning all about writing our names, initial sounds and rhyming strings. In mathematics we will be looking at numbers 0-20. We will be counting them, forward and backwards, writing them, ordering them and finding them in our learning environment.

To help us in our topic learning we would really appreciate it if the children could bring in 4 photographs of themselves. These need to be one from each year of their lives so they can create their own personal timelines.

## PE

It is good to see the children all with their PE kit. We are currently doing inside PE, so please make sure your child has appropriate PE kit (shorts and t-shirt). Please remember to remove all earrings on the day your child has PE.

Class 1 – Thursday

Class 2 – Wednesday

Class 3 - Tuesday

Please bear with us if things go missing. Changing 30 children can be quite an event. Please rest assured that any named items will be reunited with their owner as soon as we can find it.

## Reading

During these first couple of weeks we have been reading with all of the children to determine how best to support them to further develop their early reading skills. We will be sending a small folder home that will contain a reading book, a home/school reading diary and a set of key words for your child to learn. Please ensure that this folder and its contents come to school every day. If you read with your child please make a note of it in their home/school reading diary. Please record anything you read even if it isn't a school reading book. It really helps us to know how much they read at home so we can support them accordingly. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to ask us. The children will quickly learn key words as they read and progress in their Phonics learning but we currently encourage them to talk about what is happening on each page and make predictions. Within your child's reading diary, there are some helpful notes to show you how you can best support your child at home.

## Wet Weather Clothes

The children can access the outdoor learning environment at any stage in the day. We still encourage this on rainy days so it is helpful if your child has a set of **labelled** wet weather clothes (wellie boots, rain mac or puddlesuit) that they can keep on their peg for these occasions.

Thank you again for your continued support in the first initial weeks of your child's school experience. Please do not hesitate to speak to an adult within your child's class if you have any questions.

## School Lunch – Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October

The Local Education Authority has decided that **Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October** will be the Autumn Census day. This date is particularly important in terms of our school's future allocation of funding for Universal Infant Free School Meals, as

the funding we receive will be based on the number of children who have a school meal on this day. **As a result of this decision it is vital that as many children as possible have a school meal on this day to secure the maximum funding for our school.** The special "Lunch at the Movies" menu for that day is attached.