

Foundation Stage

Autumn term 1 2018

Welcome to all of the children who are new to our Foundation Stage and, also to all the children who attended Foundation one (Blue Room) and have now moved into Foundation two. We look forward to getting to know you all.

During our first half term we help your child settle in their new class. They will begin to find out about the rules and routines in their classroom and explore the exciting resources in the Foundation Stage. Together we will play lots of games to help us learn each others' names, find out what we are good at and what games we enjoy playing.



As the term progresses we will continue listening to stories about 'The Circus' as the children did when they visited prior to starting school.

Following on from this we will be learning about 'Percy the Park Keeper', when we will listen to a variety of stories about Percy's adventures. The children will find out about different types of trees, their habitats and find out about different woodland creatures. We will explore different textures and materials and begin to explore how we could use different materials to make a wheelbarrow to help Percy in the park. Towards the end of this half term we will look carefully for signs of Autumn and discuss how our local environment will change during different seasonal periods.

Within each day your child will enjoy participating in a mixture of teacher led and child led activities. At the start of each day your child will spend time with their class teacher, learning about the daily routines in their classroom, before going to enjoy 'Explore and Investigate' time. During this time the children are able to explore all areas of the Foundation Unit and are able to lead their own learning. Staff will interact alongside the children and this will be an excellent opportunity for us to get to know each child and find out their interests and likes.



During Communication, Language and Literacy sessions we will enjoy listening to stories about starting school, and discussing all the exciting and perhaps worrying situations, which your child may experience when they start school. We will use name cards to help your child practise how to write their name, including the correct letter formation and focus on the correct place to start and finish each letter. We will also explore which hand is more comfortable to hold our writing tools in and which pencil patterns we can follow.



In Maths we will enjoy counting together each day as we find out how many children are in our class. Whilst learning all about our new classrooms we will recognise and count how many children can 'Explore and Investigate' in each area of the Foundation Unit. Outside we will count how many bands are available for each area. Together we will enjoy singing a selection of number songs and begin to learn new number songs. The children will begin to order numbers both inside and outside in the Foundation Unit.

In phonics we will initially work from phase 1, which will be a mixture of rhyming, oral segmenting and blending, plus a range of listening games and activities. We will then move onto phase 2 where your child will learn how to read and write a new phoneme (letter) each day.



Groundforce- can you help?

On Thursday 13th September Mrs Macintyre is hoping to paint the wooden train that is in the courtyard. She would appreciate any help from parents/ carers or family members, starting from 1.30pm. Thank you.

Ball skills

All children will take part in ball skills on a Monday afternoon. Children will need to bring in their outdoor PE kit each week. The kit needs to include;

- a tshirt (and jumper on cooler days)
- shorts or trousers (jogging bottoms or leggings)
- trainers
- sun hat (on warmer days)



PE

All children will take part in PE on a Friday. Please ensure your child has a named PE kit (tshirt and shorts) in school for these lessons. PE kits will be kept in school until the end of the half term.

At home you can help your child by encouraging them to get dressed and undressed independently.

If you have any spare time during the school day we always appreciate parents and grandparents coming in to help in class and on school visits. When helping in class you may be asked to listen to readers, stick in work or a variety of other tasks. Please let your child's teacher know if you are able to help, either on a weekly basis or each half term.

Within your child's first few weeks at school they will be bringing home a reading book. Children in F2 receive their books three times a week. Please write a simple comment in your child's Learning Journal each time you listen to your child read, we only change books once they have read at home, so it is important to write a comment in their Learning Journal. Every child in F2 will read to a member of the Foundation Stage team each week. This may be individually or in a small guided reading group. Please send your child's reading diary into school everyday so that they can read in school.

Initially your child may not recognise any, or a limited number of letters. During the early stages of reading we focus on the children developing their ability to handle a book correctly, tell a story from the pictures and verbally retell using the pictures. Our first stage of reading books focus on these skills.

As their confidence grows and their knowledge of letters builds they will begin to segment and blend more words and gradually become more fluent.



- Please ensure that book bags and reading books are brought into school every day.
- Please bring a named water bottle into school on a Monday.
- Water bottles will be sent home every Friday to be washed and returned on Monday.
- Please ensure that all of your child's uniform and belongings are labelled clearly.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to ask.

Thank you, The Foundation Stage Team.



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