

# CURRICULUM NEWSLETTER

Foundation Class – Autumn (1) 2018

Dear Parents

We are delighted with the way that the children have settled so smoothly into school. Please continue to encourage your child to come into the classroom by themselves and manage their morning routine jobs. Putting a ribbon on your child's book bag will also help them to find their bags in amongst the 30 other purple bags!

This letter aims to give an outline of the activities and experiences we plan to offer the children in the Foundation class this term. Activities are based around the seven areas of learning as laid out in the Curriculum Guidance for the Foundation stage. A note telling you of the topic for the second half of term will go out at the end of October.

## ***Personal, social and emotional development***

This term, as part of helping the children to settle into the Foundation Class, we will be encouraging them, through the Golden Rule stories and puppets, to work together and be kind and gentle with each other. We are introducing the Learning Journeys to the children and encouraging them to take ownership and pride in their new learning. The children will have 'target rockets', where they will be encouraged to think about their own learning.

***You can support your child by:*** *encouraging your child's independence through small responsibilities, such as tidying away some of their toys. Encourage turn taking and sharing in their play. Comment on and recognise your child's achievements and successes. Praise them for trying hard.*

## ***Communication and Language***

We will be encouraging the children to listen attentively in a range of situations and to respond to instructions. Children will be encouraged to talk in a small group and then in front of the whole class sharing their ideas and experiences. Please see the attached sheet explaining how our 'smart talking' sessions work.

***You can support your child by:*** *talking with your child at every opportunity, modelling and extending appropriate vocabulary. When sharing a book encourage your child to predict possible endings to stories and events.*



## ***Physical development***

This term we will learn songs about keeping ourselves active and healthy. We will be dipping into the 'Real PE' programme to develop movement and coordination skills. Children will have daily access to a range of physical activities to develop gross and fine motor skills. They will participate in a daily 'Funky Fingers' dough gym disco session to strengthen the muscles in their fingers and help children to develop a good pencil grip.

***You can support your child by:*** *helping them to learn the phrase (to aid memory) and practise writing the letters from their Read, Write Inc phonic sheets. Offer any of the following to help them develop their motor skills: Paint brush and water pot to write on the patio or walls. Write on a steamed up wall or mirror. Write in the sand tray with their magic finger. Put out a large sheet of paper and let them make marks. Talk to the children about keeping healthy and the importance of exercise.*

## **Literacy**

The children will work daily learning to read and write letters from their phonic programme. Please see individual letters sent home giving ways to support your child at home with their early reading skills. The children will be introduced to stories, poems and information text. There will be plenty of opportunities for the children to re-tell stories through role-play.

**You can support your child by:** *continuing to share stories and poems exposing them to a wide variety of language. Encourage them to listen for words that rhyme and then to make up their own silly rhymes! Please make time to support them practising their letter sounds. (see information sheet in their bookbags)*

## **Mathematics**

This term the children will undertake lots of counting through songs, games and play activities. They will learn how numbers grow. They will learn to say the number that is one more and one less for numbers to 5 and then 10. Children will count their golden points and work out how many more they need to make ten. In addition we will be developing children's awareness of shape, space and pattern through practical activities. I will send home a sheet showing the correct way to form their numbers and the rhyme that will support them.

**You can support your child by:** *count suitable objects in and around the home, making sure they are touching and counting carefully. Spot different numbers in the environment. Help your child to be a shape detective and encourage them to look for different shapes when you are out and about.*

## **Understanding of the world**

During the first few weeks of term the children will meet the adults in school and learn about the different jobs that they do. They will learn how to find their way around the school. We will then spend some time looking at different sorts of transport and I will be reading a range of stories and sharing information text with them. The children will be encouraged to ask and answer questions. The children will then learn about 'Harvest'. Children will also begin to learn about foods harvested in other countries. There will be opportunities for children to learn how to operate a CD player to play music and listening games with their friends.

**You can support your child by:** *talking about what vegetables you see in the environment, including the local shop/farmers' market. Help them to spot different sorts of transport when you are out and about, or when sharing books.*

## **Expressive arts and design**

Children will have lots of opportunities to paint and draw using a range of equipment. They will learn how to use thick and thin paint brushes. They will begin to learn the different primary colours and how these can be made into different shades. Children will be fully involved in choosing and planning for their role play area. Children will listen to music, learn new songs and learn how to make different sounds with the musical instruments.

**You can support your child by:** *encouraging them to sing some of the new songs they have learned in school. Value the creations they bring home from school and discuss why and how they made their picture or model.*

Please remember you are always welcome to come and discuss any aspect of your child's development. Keep popping in to share your child's personal targets and learning journey.

Best wishes  
Mrs Riggs



