

AUTUMN TERM 2019

RECEPTION YEAR BLACKBIRD CLASS



Reception staff:

Teacher: Mrs Anne Whittingham
Classroom Assistant: Mrs Donna Pilott

A warm welcome to Blackbird Class! This leaflet will give you a summary of the learning objectives and expectations for children entering school. It contains a general overview of the work to be covered and suggestions for ways in which you can help your child. Starting school is a big step. We recognise that all children have differing levels of confidence and every effort will be made to take account of your child's individual needs.

Please remember that between 8.35a.m and 8.50a.m parents /carers are warmly welcomed and encouraged to come into the classroom with their child to support their learning!

Special dates in the Autumn Term

(More details to follow nearer the time)

Curriculum Meeting – Friday 13th September 9.00 a.m

Life Bus - Wednesday 18th & Thursday 19th September

Maths workshop – Tues 8 Oct (9-10)

Half term- 28th-31st October

INSET - Monday 4th November

Chertsey Toy Museum workshop – Wednesday 6th November (for Blackbird children only)

Toys Tea party – Thursday 28th November (parents invited)

EYFS Christmas performances – 10th & 11th December

Last day of term - December 20th 2pm

Advanced notice

Wisley visit - Wednesday 26th February

BirdWorld visit - Friday 15th May

Themes this term

This term we will be learning about 'Traditional Stories' followed by 'Toys' after half term.
Parents will be invited to a special Toys Tea Party later on in the term (details to follow).

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The Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum

Our curriculum is organised in to seven 'Areas of Learning': -

1. Personal, Social and Emotional Development
2. Physical Development
3. Communication and Language
4. Literacy
5. Mathematics
6. Understanding the World
7. Expressive Arts and Design

1. Personal, Social & Emotional Development

Through our topics we will be using every opportunity to develop spiritual, moral, social, and cultural values- encouraging children to: explore beliefs and experiences; show respect for faiths, feelings and values; learn about themselves, others and the surrounding world; use imagination and creativity; reflect.

In this first term the focus will be on becoming independent, building self-esteem, learning to co-operate in a group, building up relationships and sharing. Children will be encouraged to be aware of the needs of others. This will be done through using a values led curriculum, (see below), focusing on the 5 R's, (Resilience, Reflective, Resourceful, Reasoning and Responsible), and by encouraging the children to begin to think about their **rights** and **responsibilities**, (e.g. - you have the right to play, but the responsibility to share and look after our resources). We will also be rewarding children's behaviour by giving house points, (all children will be assigned a house – one of: McLaren, Brooklands, Lightbox or War of the Worlds- more details to follow).

Excellent behaviour in the playground is rewarded with special blue cards and celebrated during our weekly celebration assembly.

VALUES

We have **4 core values** which we will revisit every term. We will focus on a value a month through everyday learning opportunities, planned activities, and assemblies. Please take time to talk about these at home with your child.

September: Respect

October: Resilience

November: Empathy

December: Reflection

We shall also celebrate Harvest and Christmas and begin to explore aspects of Christianity and values through stories.

The children will be joining the rest of the school for the weekly Friday celebration assembly, (and later on in the term, on a Tuesday too).

How you can help:

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*Refer to our School Charter at home whenever possible and talk about Rights and Responsibilities- (e.g. – It is your right to play, but your responsibility to tidy up afterwards!)

* Encourage your child to listen carefully to you and other family members - as well as having her/his say!

*Encourage independence in remembering/looking after their personal belongings for the school day.

*Please ensure that your child attends school every day, unless unwell and that they are in school, 'ready to learn' by 8.45a.m.

2. Physical Development

Physical skills will be developed through dance, movement, drama and the use of large and small apparatus both indoors and outside. Children will be encouraged to work safely and listen carefully to instructions. We will send home P.E kits every half term or as needed. PE will be on **Wednesdays** and **Thursdays**.

We will also be teaching children about the importance of physical activity and about making healthy choices in relation to food, though, for example, cooking and our visit to the Life Bus.

How you can help:

- * Remove earrings on PE days.
- * Ensure your child has their P.E bag in school every day.
- * Send your child to school with a coat every day (unless it is very warm).
- * Name everything including bags and footwear.
- * Send your child in with a (named) bottle of **water** and a piece of fruit.

3. Communication and Language

Speaking and listening are the foundations upon which reading and writing are built. This term we aim to develop the children's confidence by encouraging them to speak and listen in a range of situations, using, for example, role-play and opportunities to share experiences with the rest of the class. We will also be using Nursery Rhymes and traditional stories to help develop memory, recall and the awareness of rhyme, (three important skills in learning to read.) From these experiences the children move naturally into the more structured aspects of reading.

4. Literacy

Reading

A systematic system of teaching letter sounds will be taught using the 'Jolly Phonics' scheme. This term the emphasis will be on teaching initial sounds and blending letter sounds together to make simple words. Children will also begin to learn "tricky" words that have irregular spellings, (such as "the"). We will be introducing a variety of books to enjoy and

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share at home via both books borrowed from our library and through individual reading books levelled appropriately to teach your child to read.

How you can help:

- * Try to share a book with your child every day.
- * Show her/him how to hold the book and turn the pages; pointing out where the writing starts on the page.
- * Draw attention to writing when shopping/on a journey
- * Provide an alphabet frieze in their bedroom - and discuss it! Support our Jolly Phonics scheme at home by reinforcing the sounds that have been taught in class, (Jolly Phonic booklets and sound books will be sent home shortly).
- * Ensure that your child has their book bag in school every day.

Writing/Handwriting

Children's early attempts at writing may only be a 'squiggle' but, with practice and encouragement, these early attempts lead to the formation of letter-like shapes in a very short time!

Our priorities this term will be:

- * To make the children aware that everything we say can be written down.
- * To teach the children to hold a pencil correctly.
- * Begin to write the letters in their name.
- * Help the children to form letters correctly in cursive script.
- * Encourage them to write words using their own invented spellings.
- * Provide opportunities to copy simple scripts.

How you can help:-

- * Encourage your child to trace over their cursive name card.
- * Encourage your child to write - for whatever reason- a story, a letter to a relative, a shopping list.
- * Encourage your child to use the "post boxes" in the classroom to write letters to their friends.
- * Be patient - and praise.
- * Provide writing materials - felt pens/pencils/crayons/paper.
- * Encourage your child to make simple words using the letters and sounds that have been taught in class.
- * Praise your child's efforts with writing.
- * Remind them of the correct cursive letter formation.
- * Encourage your child to practise listening and writing words from the weekly word lists using their phonic knowledge.
- * Help them to write some of the 'Tricky Words' accurately.

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5. Mathematics

The children will be given a wide variety of practical classroom experiences to encourage their curiosity and questioning. Mathematical ideas will be built up using appropriate vocabulary.

This term the emphasis will be on...

- * Counting, (comparing and ordering), and recognising numbers.
- * Shape and space.
- * Measures, (including time).
- * Adding one more.
- * Subtracting - one less.
- * Money and 'real life' problems.

How you can help:-

- * Play number games - using dice/dominos.
- * Encourage number recognition when out and about, (numbers on front doors, cars etc.).
- * Use everyday opportunities, such as cooking, to talk about quantities and measures.
- * Use daily routines to talk about time.
- * Ask your child to tell you about models they have made, (e.g. what shapes have been used?).

6. Understanding of the World

This term we will be encouraging children to construct in purposeful way, using simple tools and techniques. We will also be talking about seasonal changes. These will be developed through practical activities and observations to include:

- * Looking at the changes in the local environment.
- * Experiments with materials
- * Opportunities to use a variety of simple tools, including scissors
- * Construction kits
- * Cooking activities
- * Exploring old and new toys
- * Begin to use the computer to play simple games and write their name
- * Learn to control the 'mouse'

7. Expressive Arts and Design

- * This term the emphasis will be on experimenting with a variety of media - paint, dough
- * Mixing colours, controlling paint (how to prevent drips!).
- * Printing with a variety of media: fruit, vegetables, shapes, everyday objects.
- * Looking at colour in nature.
- * Creating songs and patterns with percussion instruments and voices.
- * Singing songs and rhymes.

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- * Listening to various styles of music.
- * Acting out traditional stories.

How you can help:-

We are always grateful for any recycled materials such as yoghurt pots, kitchen roll cylinders, boxes, beads, buttons or fabric.

EQUIPMENT

All personal possessions must be named. This includes all clothing, PE kits, bags and, water bottles. Research highlights the importance of children having constant access to water during the day as dehydration inhibits their concentration and performance! Therefore, it is recommended that your child brings in a 'sports style' named water bottle (not a screw-top one in case of spillage) so that they can drink from it during the day as required.

ATTENDANCE

Please ensure that your child is in school every day, unless they are unwell. School starts at 8.35am and the children should be in school by 8.45 when the classroom door closes and the register is taken. If they arrive after this, it is recorded and treated as lateness and marked as such on the Child's record. Every half term, during assembly, those children with a 100% attendance record will be rewarded with a certificate. A Golden Ticket is also presented in our weekly Celebration Assembly to the class who wins MAC for the best attendance that week. This golden ticket is put in our MAC box and at the end of the term the winning ticket is drawn and the winning class receives a special treat. Obviously, the more times the class has won, the more golden tickets and therefore, the greater the chance of the ticket being picked. Please help Blackbird Class to 'Make Attendance Count'!

PARENT HELP

If you would like to help in class, you would be warmly welcomed at any time throughout the year, (so long as your child continues to be happy and settled). All parents who help in school on a regular basis must have a DBS check. Please see Mrs Buckett, our School Business Manager, if you are interested and do not have DBS clearance from Kingfield School.

We hope that your child will be very happy at Kingfield Primary School and make good progress in their Reception Year. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to ask a member of staff.

Yours sincerely,
Mrs Whittingham and Mrs Pilott.

'Children have the right to be educated...and the responsibility to learn as much as they can and help others to learn.'

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