



## Hatfield Heath Primary School

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Head teacher: J H Clements MA

September 2017

Dear Parents,

Welcome, once again to the Reception and Early Years Foundation Stage class at Hatfield Heath Primary School. We are delighted with the way the children are settling into school at this early stage. Next week the children will stay for the whole school day, from 8.50am until 3.15pm. It has been wonderful to see the children taking part in the morning school routines; independently placing their belongings in their drawers and registering for lunch. Thank you for your encouragement and support with this.

Each half term we shall send home a newsletter informing you of some of the topics we will be covering in class. Your children will benefit more from each learning experience if you are able to follow up this work at home by playing games, making up stories, discussing topics or looking at library books. You may also have relevant items at home which the children could bring into school to show everyone.

The focus of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) is very much about 'learning through play'. This half-term the topic we shall be basing much of our learning around is 'Autumn'. Within this topic we shall be thinking about seasonal changes. We will be investigating leaf sizes, colours and shapes as well as finding out about spiders and hedgehogs and discovering that non-fiction books and the internet have so much information to help us to learn.

### **English**

We will be learning about rhyme and developing our awareness of sounds and syllables.

Looking at library books together, singing nursery rhymes and clapping the syllables (or beats) within a word will help your child to develop an awareness of these. We shall also be looking at writing our names with use of the correct formations.

*Please help your child at home by encouraging or supporting them to write their name using the correct letter formations and pencil grip.*

The children have been excited to take books home to share with their families. The school books will be changed on Mondays and Thursdays. To aid learning, it is vital that children share their reading books at home as often as possible, a minimum of four times a week, for just a few minutes at each time. Please write a comment in your child's home school diary each time you share a book together. Every Monday we will be awarding certificates to each child that has

'read' on four separate days in the previous week. Therefore please ensure each individual entry is dated.

*We would like the children to develop a love for reading. For this they will need to develop an understanding of books they are reading, or those which are read to them. To support this please discuss the books with your child. When doing so please encourage your child to speak in full sentences. You could help your child to develop their ideas and understanding further by asking questions such as "Why do you think that?" "How do you know?" "Which was your favourite part?" "Why?" etc*

### **Mathematics**

Our maths activities this half term will focus on recognising and ordering numbers to 10 and then 20, counting objects, naming 2D shapes and creating and describing patterns. We will practise these skills through games as well as teacher-led learning activities.

*You can help your child by encouraging them to look for numbers around them, count groups of objects and looking at and creating patterns using toy cars, buttons etc. Please also practise counting forwards and backwards from 0-10, then from 0-20.*

During this half term, initial assessments across all areas of the curriculum are taking place, generally through observations and directed games. You will have an opportunity to discuss these and how your child is settling into school on one of the parent consultation evenings, which will be held in October. A letter about this will follow later.

### **PE lessons**

PE lessons will take place on Wednesdays and Fridays each week. Please be aware that earrings must not be worn during PE lessons. Therefore, please send your child in without their earrings on these days as we are not permitted to remove them.

*Please help your child by encouraging them to get changed into their school uniform each morning, as independently as possible. It would also be helpful if your child could turn their clothes in the right way as this makes changing after PE much easier when their clothes are often inside-out.*

### **School uniform**

Please ensure:

- all items of clothing are labelled, including any coats, scarves etc your child may bring to school.
- long hair is completely tied back for safety reasons.
- children are not wearing nail varnish in school.

### **Afternoon snack**

We offer a snack and drink in the afternoon, which the children will often be involved in preparing or serving. We ask for a voluntary contribution of 15p per day. However, it would be very helpful if you could pay for the half-term which is £3.60. Please place the money in an envelope with your child's name on and give it to one of the adults. Thank you.

### **Water bottles**

Please ensure your child has a named bottle of water in school each day, they have access to this throughout the school day.

### **Class milk**

In line with a government initiative, every child in class will be offered a free carton of milk until they reach the age of five. After their fifth birthday, if your child wishes, they will still be able to have milk although it will need to be ordered and there will then be a charge for it. Please contact the school office for further details.

### **Can you help us?**

We are currently looking for donations of complete jigsaw puzzles; if you have any which you wish to donate to our class we would be very grateful. Thank you.

### **Advance Notice – A date for your diaries.**

Our first Activity afternoon will be on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2.15pm – 3.15pm. This will be an opportunity for you to enjoy school activities with your child. Each child will need to have one adult to work with during this afternoon. If at all possible, it would be helpful if younger children did not attend; this is primarily to ensure their safety, but also to give your school child a chance to have your undivided attention!

Please do not hesitate to speak to me if you have any queries or concerns as your child settles into school. I am nearly always available for a brief chat in the morning before 9.00am or after school; alternatively you may wish to make an appointment for a meeting at a mutually convenient time.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. Claire Atherton