

Foundation Stage Newsletter

Autumn Term 2018

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Dear Parents,

A very warm welcome to your first Termly Newsletter. You will receive one each term, outlining the learning that your child will be covering, as well as any other important information. We will, as mentioned in the Home Visits, also be offering you an opportunity to come into school for a Curriculum meeting. This date has now been set as Wednesday 26th September at 6pm, when you are welcome to come for a cup of tea and a chance to find out more about what we do in the Foundation Stage.

This term our learning will be based around '**Magical Me**'. We will find out about ourselves, each other and our families. Later in the term, we will look at different celebrations and festivals including Diwali and Christmas, as well as Bonfire Night and Harvest.

In **Communication and Language**, and also in **Literacy**, we will be focusing on phonics activities and teaching reading skills. Your child will bring home a pack containing all Phase 2 sounds and tricky words - we will indicate which ones we have focused on in school in our weekly newsletter. Children will also have individual reading and library books in due course. Please support your child with learning their sounds and words and read to and with your child as often as possible. Finding time to share books and talking about them together is of huge benefit to your child.

In **Mathematics** we will focus on recognising and ordering numbers. We will learn about more or less and say the numbers that are 1 more and 1 less than a given number. We will be learning about 2D shape and how to describe them; children often find shape hunts and spotting shapes in the environment fun. We will learn the

language associated with size, shape, weight, capacity and money.

In **Understanding of the world**, we will be spending lots of time outside. We will be able to teach lots about the 5 senses outside but will also use lots of textures, tastes and smells in class to enhance the learning. The children will begin to use computers in the classroom and we will also have use of the school's iPads to support our learning.

In **Personal, Social and Emotional Development** we will have circle times covering topics such as Starting school and making friends, friendships and feelings. We will continue to set the ground rules for school and for the Foundation Stage.

In **Physical Development**, the children will start with simple skills in Outdoor PE, including ball skills, and in indoor PE we will be focusing on developing Gross Motor Skills, core strength, co-ordination and balance. Both P.E sessions will take place on a Tuesday afternoon with children alternating between them.

Just a reminder that as the colder seasons approach, the children will need tracksuits as part of their kit.

In **Expressive Arts and Design** We will also be providing lots of opportunities for the children to experience a variety of tools and materials and express their creativity through role play, art, music and dance. The role-play areas are being developed with the children and they are already enjoying the Home Corner role-play area.

We will be using 'Tapsetry', which is an online journal recording your child's learning and development in the Foundation year. Many of you will be familiar with Tapestry from preschool settings. We will provide further information regarding this system in due course.

The Foundation Stage children will be making the most of our wonderful school grounds this year by having an outdoor learning day every Friday. The children will be able to come to school in their own 'old' clothes on a Friday and we will take all of their learning outside! We feel this is a very exciting opportunity to enhance the children's learning and experiences during their year in Foundation! Outdoor learning will start after half term - we will remind you nearer the time.

The Foundation children will be leading the Carol Service Nativity at the church this year. You are warmly invited to attend the service on Thursday 20th December at 10am.

Every week, on a Friday afternoon, the children will take part in Café Time. Café time is an enjoyable activity for the children where we transform the classroom into a café and choose waiters/waitress' to serve healthy food from a choice of menu. This promotes speaking and listening skills, good manners and self-confidence as well as the opportunity to try a

variety of fresh food. We ask for a donation towards Café time of 50p a week (£3:00 per

half term / £6:00 per term). We will start Café time when the children are in school full time on Friday 21st September.

Just a few reminders....

Free fruit/veg will be available at school every day during morning snack time. However, we would like to remind you that if you send a snack into school with your child, in line with school policy, snacks are to be fruit or vegetables on Mondays to Thursdays with a free choice on Fridays.

We actively encourage named water bottles to be brought into class every day and children can drink from them throughout the school day. Again, in line with school policy, we ask that you only send in water, not juice or squash.

Moving forward all future information will be emailed to you, as well as being available on the school website. Where possible as a school we try to avoid sending paper copies.

Please come and see us if you have any queries about this newsletter. It will be a busy but hopefully very enjoyable term.

Thank you for your continued support.

The Foundation Stage Team

REMINDERS -

- Welcome Church Service on Friday 21st September at 10am.
- Curriculum evening on Wednesday 26th September at 6pm