



Robins

Autumn Term 1 - September/October 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you have had a fantastic summer and would like to warmly welcome you all! We would also like to thank you for your patience and hospitality over the past week as we have visited you and your children at home. We hope that you found the experience a positive one. We certainly have had a fantastic first few days at school with the children and we are looking forward to an exciting year together.

In Reception the children follow the Early Years Foundation Stage (birth to 5 years) curriculum. The children will take part in a wide range of play-based activities and follow their own interests during the day. Teaching and learning takes place through our interactions with individuals and small groups. A general guide to the curriculum can be found here: http://www.foundationyears.org.uk/files/2014/08/EYFS_Parents_Guide-amended.pdf

Initially our focus will be on supporting the children in being confident and happy in their new class, getting to know each other and our routines. Over the coming weeks we will be exploring the theme of 'All about me' but this will not override the interests and fascinations of the children which we will develop through our 'In the Moment Planning'.

In Robins we are constantly creating with a range of resources. If you have any of the following please do bring them in: spare, clean packaging for junk modelling, old cards, postcards, envelopes and stamps, ribbons and general 'craft bits'. Please note, we cannot use toilet rolls or packets that have contained nuts.

If you have any comments, questions or concerns please do come and speak to one of us.

Thanks and best wishes,

Clare Doughty and Alice Warren

Important Dates

11th Sept (3.30 to 4.15pm) - Meet the Teacher

26th Sept - Individual and Sibling photos

28th Sept - MacMillan Coffee Morning TBC

3rd Oct - Harvest Service TBC

12th Oct (3.00 to 3.30pm) - Book Blink

16th Oct (4.00 to 7.00pm) and **8th October (4.00 to 6.00pm)** - Parents Evening

Our first day at school!



Reminders

If you haven't already, please bring in a family photograph for our class display.

As the weather becomes more Autumnal, please ensure that your child has a warm, waterproof coat with a hood and a pair of wellington boots as we do go outside in all weathers.



Library

Children will visit the school library on Fridays and will each be able to take a book home of their choice. Please therefore return the library book each Friday so that your child can choose a new book.





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Personal, Social, and Emotional Development	As the children start school our initial focus will be on settling in, being happy and ready to learn. Adults will support the children to develop confidence to take part in a wide range of experiences indoors and outside. Staff will encourage children to manage their own personal needs and select/return resources independently. Understanding that equipment needs to be shared and that adults and children can work together cooperatively. During class circle times, children will have an opportunity to talk in a familiar group, share feelings, likes, dislikes and special memories.
Communication and Language	As children settle in to Reception they will be encouraged to communicate to new adults and classmates. Learning and support will focus on children being able to express their feelings and needs and knowing some vocabulary of the setting (including names of adults and children). We will develop speaking and listening skills through class discussion and 'circle time' sessions, sharing ideas and experiences, talking about ourselves, our likes and dislikes. Listening to books and joining in with favourite songs, stories and rhymes. We will develop story telling skills, scribing stories for the children and acting them out together.
Physical Development	The children will explore the environment through a range of gross and fine motor activity and be willing to take a risk and persevere with new physical challenges. Begin to be able to dress and undress independently (coat, shoes, apron). Taking care of our own belongings and going to the toilet independently. Discuss keeping our bodies active, personal hygiene (hand washing) and eating healthily. Using appropriate equipment and tools with increasing control and expertise e.g. drawing, threading, cutting, building with large and small equipment. Health and safety issues – using equipment and moving safely within indoor and outdoor spaces.
Literacy	The children will develop their interest and enjoyment in books, stories, rhymes and songs. We will read a range of fiction and non fiction texts and using these to develop their interest in reading, mark-making and writing. Making meaningful marks and developing writing for a range of different purposes such as their own name, messages and letters in the role play area. We will introduce the Read Write Inc program to develop their phonic (letter sound) knowledge. Initially, children will be introduced to taking library a library book home each week. We will send home reading scheme books around half term, when children are settled into school and secure in their letter sound knowledge. Also, this term we will start 'Story Scribing' where the children can dictates their stories to an adult and at the end of the day they will be able to act them out if they choose to do so.
Maths	The children will develop their interest and enjoyment in sorting and counting when playing and tidying up. The initial focus for maths will be on number: counting and recognition. Counting groups of objects reliably and confidently and matching to the correct numeral. We will use Numicon as a resource to support counting and recognising number. Through discussion and experiences, the children will also be learning about dates and days of the week, our birthdays and ages.
Understanding the World	Using all senses to explore the world around us, tactile and sensory activities and objects. Exploring similarities and differences and extending scientific vocabulary. Learning about our bodies and the senses. Learning about the need for healthy eating, exercise, sleep and caring for our bodies. People, places different cultures we are familiar with, different languages we speak at home. Introducing a range of different technology such as tablets, PC and Beebots (programmable toys).
Expressive Arts and Design	Creating self-portraits, hand prints and foot prints. Exploring colour: which is their favourite colour, how can we mix colours? Taking part in family home, doctor etc. role-play. Exploring experiences and familiar family roles. Exploring our feelings and our senses – taste, touch sight and hearing, smell through a variety of tactile activities (e.g. cooking, colour mixing, role-play, singing, dancing etc.) Singing songs and rhymes, dancing and moving our bodies imaginatively to music.

Things to do at Home: Look at photographs - talk to your child about how they have changed since birth, talk about family history/sharing past memories. Also discuss special places and countries. Talk about the different ages of family members and numbers of personal significance (e.g. age, house and phone numbers. Play counting games or giving problems to solve around the home (e.g. "how many more chairs do we need around the table?" etc.) Reading school library books, singing and reading poems together. Encourage your child to be as independent as possible in dressing and looking after their belongings. Give small tasks at home to encourage independence e.g. helping to lay the table and cooking together. Practice writing their name with a capital at the start and the remaining letters in lower case.