



Harvey Road School

Nursery Class

Spring 2019

Dear Parents,

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you and your child back to Harvey Road School. I hope you had a wonderful Christmas and New Year.

Initially this term we shall be having a focus on name writing and pencil grip in preparation for brilliant writing in 'letters and sounds'. The children will be mark making in lots of ways but if your child is not ready for actual letters yet there is no need to worry. Mark making and letter formation will be supported with plenty of fun, physical activities.

We are really enjoying the children coming in wearing 'ask me about' stickers and telling us about what they have been up to; if you need any more please let us know. For those yet to use the stickers, they are used for children to bring in as and when they have achieved something or attended a special event outside of school. You write on the sticker what we need to ask the child about. They may or may not share their experience in front of the class. These give us an opportunity to hear about the child outside of school and develop their language skills.

Learning Journey books: Please remember that you can add photos and special moments to your child's learning journey. Please print these off with any notes and we will file them in the journals.

P.E. lessons are on Thursday morning. Help your child prepare for changing at home ready for changing.

Assemblies: We will carry on having a short "star celebration" assembly once a month on a Friday which you are very welcome to join us for. These are no longer with Reception class but will continue to take place in the hall.

We would like to start cooking with the children on a Wednesday morning (from 10 – 11.15am) If you/grandparents etc are able to volunteer please sign up on the sheet on the whiteboard by the classroom door/gate.

This term our topics will follow the children's interests but will also have underlying themes of animals and transport.

Miss Ridley

Literacy

Reading:

Each day we will read the days of the week with a song to remind the children of the order. We will read titles of story books to become familiar with the order of words and the direction in which we read and read our name labels at the beginning of child initiated play. Eventually we will begin guided reading groups in order to develop our knowledge of the features of books (front cover, back cover, page numbers, titles, authors etc).

Writing:

The children have become very good at describing their marks and talking about what they need for different types of writing. We will be learning to write names this term and begin to recognise letters. We shall then be learning how to form these letters correctly. Pencil grip will be a focus so that the children learn to write comfortably.

Communication and Language

To encourage good speaking and listening skills, staff always model polite language for sharing and talking to each other. In phonics time children will be focusing on Phase 2, in which we learn letters and their corresponding sounds; as well as practising segmenting and blending words. We will play lots of games to hear the sounds at the beginning of words. You can practise this at home with games like 'I spy'.

Mathematics

At the beginning of term we are focusing on counting with 1:1 correspondence (accurately, touching an object as we say the appropriate number name) as well as numeral recognition. We are also focusing on matching a numeral to a quantity. We will be moving on to 'subitizing'. This means recognising small amounts by just looking. For example, when you throw a dice and recognise the amount of dots. We shall then be looking at how amounts can be moved but do not change. The children will also explore shape and their properties.

Understanding the World

This term we have a huge variety of topics to learn through. We are focusing on animals for the start of the week, then moving on to transport. We will be recognizing 'Thanks for Thinking' Day and thinking about faiths and stories from a variety of religions. There will also be a focus on St Valentine and Chinese New Year.

Expressive Arts and Design

I would like to children to develop their artistic skills at an independent level this term by giving them more opportunities to create and describe their own ideas. Prepare yourselves for lots of 'junk modelling' as we make various transport models as well as our own creations. We will also be thinking about observational drawings and colour matching. We will start with animal drawings and use the skill for other areas too.

We will also be exploring instruments and beginning to make our own compositions.

Physical Education

Each morning the children will be given activities known as 'Busy Fingers' to develop their fine motor skills in preparation for writing. We also practise gross motor (large movement) control and coordination during 'Go Noodle' which we do after Phonics.

In class PE we will be finding our own space in the hall, travelling in different ways and in different directions and exploring using apparatus safely.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

In PSED we shall be carrying on with good listening skills and extending concentration.

Useful Dates for Nursery Parents

- Friday 25th January 9.10am – Star Assembly in hall
- Week beginning 28th January – Faith and Thanks for Thinking week. Please speak to Miss Ridley if you are willing to join us to share stories, foods, pictures etc from a particular faith
- Thursday 31st January from 6.30pm – Open Evening with a writing focus, come and find out how to support your child to be the best writer they can be – further details to follow
- Tuesday 5th February – Celebrating Progress through a Learning Journal sharing session as well as Stay and Play (approximate end time 10am)
- Monday 18th – Friday 22nd February – HALF TERM
- Friday 1st March 9.10am – Star Assembly in hall
- Week beginning 4th March – Book Week, further information to follow
- Friday 22nd March 9-9.30am – Learning Journal Review
- Tuesday 26th March – Parent Consultations (2.30 - 6pm)
- Thursday 28th March - Parent Consultations (3.30 – 8pm)
- Friday 29th March 9.10am – Star Assembly in hall
- Friday 5th April – End of term. Morning Nursery finish time 12pm. Please note that Nursery will be open until 3.15pm, but we do find that most children are collected at 2.30pm when the rest of the school breaks up for Easter