



Harvey Road School

Nursery Class

Autumn 2020

Dear Parents,

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome you and your child/ren to Harvey Road School. Every term you will receive a letter like this which will give you an insight into some of the things the children will be learning. You will also receive a newsletter every Friday which will let you know about the specific learning that will be taking place the following week.

Each term we shall be planning our topics in response to the children's interests. The first few weeks will be focused settling into Nursery, sharing, becoming independent in the environment, tidying, respecting others, asking for help and the more personal, social and emotional aspects of learning. The children will become familiar with class routines, the timetable and our expectations in Nursery. All of this is taught through play, but will also encompass stories, circle times, games, modelling and role play.

Following on from the transition period children will be encouraged to share their interests and lead the planning for their 'child initiated play'. During this time children are encouraged to explore the different resources, solve problems, express creativity and become independent when using the environment. There will be a lot of modelling and adult support to ensure that this happens. In addition to this we have adult led activities such as Phonics, Go Noodle and PE. The children will not need a PE kit until after half term.

Language in Early Years is key to support your child/ren's development. You can help at home by modelling, explaining and exploring new and familiar words. Reading regularly to your child/ren will support them in building a broad understanding of language, its use and how to use it effectively. We will also send home 'Ask me about stickers' after half term. If your child/ren has done something that they would like to tell us about just fill in the sticker and put it on their jumper/top. We shall then share these in class. This supports your child/ren in developing their language skills, as well as their confidence to speak in front of audiences of varying sizes.

Learning Journeys: We will be keeping a record of your child/ren's learning over the year as part of our assessment tool. You are welcome to see these files at any time and we encourage contributions from home, such as photos, pictures, new experiences or certificates.

P.E. lessons are on Thursday morning but we will start once the children feel settled in school. We will initially focus on taking off shoes and socks and exploring space. You can support your child/ren in being ready for PE by helping them know and recognise their own belongings, as well as beginning to dress themselves and putting on their own shoes and socks. Please ensure all of your child/ren's items of clothing/shoes are labelled with their name. Show your child/ren their name label, so they become familiar with checking for it/what it looks like. PE kits will be needed after the October half term. There is no need to bring these in to school yet, but if you have they will remain safe on your child/ren's peg.

Help needed: We would love you to come in and help in the classroom. We are ideally looking for people to commit to helping for 1 morning a week. We are also looking for someone to come in on a Friday morning to change library books. Safeguarding training will be provided by Mr Rowlands in the near future. Please express your interest to help to a member of the Nursery team.

Link Books: Each child has been given a link book for home/school communication. Please feel free to use this to keep us updated with anything you feel we need to know i.e. pick up arrangements, appointments, etc. If you have written in the link book please hand it directly to a member of the Nursery team so that we know to check it. In addition if you have any letters or reply slips that need to go to the office please hand them to a member of staff. If your child/ren attend Breakfast Club, please hand any letters or link books to the breakfast Club team – this will ensure they are brought to the attention of the Nursery team.

Children should bring a filled water bottle to school every day. The children place it in their home-group coloured trays as they come in each morning (red, blue, yellow: this is currently the green box with yellow stickers on – we are awaiting a new box.) Parents are reminded that children are only permitted to bring water to school. In Nursey the children have access to milk too.

The Government provide fruit as a snack each day, however we have no notice as to what this snack may be (carrots, bananas, satsumas, apples – are typical examples.) If you would like to continue to send a healthy snack in a Tupperware in for your child/ren, this is permitted – please notes this will be reviewed at October half term. We have found that the children have eaten their own/preferred snack really well this week. If you choose not to send in snack, your child/ren will have access to a piece of fruit. We ask that no items contain nuts or sesame – due to allergies in the class; and that no chocolate is sent in. If your child/ren stay for lunch, please remember to include an extra snack in their lunchbox for our afternoon snack time.

When you collect your child/ren from Nursery, please collect their water bottle, snack box (if applicable), lunchbox (if applicable) and Book Bag.

The Nursery Team 😊

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. We will have continuous exposure to our names. We will develop our knowledge of the features of books through frequent story sessions. We will sing lots of songs and action rhymes and begin short Phonics sessions (Phase 1, then Phase 2.) You can support your child/ren by practising name recognition at home, as well as reading familiar labels – the cereal aisle is great to support this.

Writing:

Across the setting there will be lots of opportunities for mark making and writing. We will be encouraging the children to talk about their mark making will annotate the children's marks.

Communication and Language

To encourage good speaking and listening skills, staff will be modelling polite language, sharing circle times with their home-groups. In phonics children will be focusing on listening games, distinguishing different sounds, going on sound walks, listening to rhymes and singing songs. We use lots of opportunities to speak to a whole group when the children are sharing their achievements and reflecting on their learning.

Mathematics

To begin with we shall be practising counting all different objects, recognising numerals to 10 and 20, matching quantities to numerals, comparing sizes, lengths and weights, recognising 2D shapes and applying all of these aspects in play or games. We will also be singing lots of number songs such as '5 Little Ducks', '5 Speckled Frogs', '10 Green Bottles' etc. to become familiar with taking numbers away.

Understanding the World

Initially we will focus on ourselves and the season. The children will be talking about their families, looking at what makes them unique and sharing each other's cultures. We will be talking about where they live and features of their surrounding area. We will take the children on tours of their immediate learning environment as well as the wider school, to help them develop a sense of belonging as well as awareness of space.

Expressive Arts and Design

We shall build on basic artistic skills such as painting, drawing simple shapes and faces, joining junk modelling and colouring skills, all in preparation for independent art choices.

Our role play areas will be focused on familiar settings such as the home corner. Each day we sing and use music as a means for the children to join in and learn about rhythm and movement.

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 will also be doing a gross motor program called 'Go Noodle' which encourages coordination.

In class PE we will be finding our own space in the hall, travelling in different ways and in different directions, learning to start and stop and introducing playground style games.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

We are focusing on settling in, making friends, becoming confident and independent. We will establish class rules and our behaviour management system. The children will learn how to talk to each other, respect resources, share, tidy and listen. We will use methods such as adult modelling, circle games, stories and role play.

Useful Dates for Nursery Parents

- Wed 16th Sept: School Photos
- Tues 29th Sept: Phonics Evening for parents 6pm - TBC
- Tue 20th & Thu 22nd Oct: Parent's Evenings
- Mon 26th - Fri 30th Oct: Half Term

Other events such as Star (certificate) assemblies, theme assemblies or 'stay and play' are currently unable to happen but we will continue to review this and inform you of dates if and when these events are able to go ahead.