



# Harvey Road School

## Nursery Class

### Autumn 2021

Dear Parents,

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you and your child 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. In addition to this we have adult led activities such as Phonics, Literacy, Maths, PE and Explorers.

Language in Early Years is key to support your child's development. You can help at home by modelling and explaining and exploring new and familiar vocabulary. Reading regularly to your child 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' in a few weeks. If your child has done something that they would like to tell us about just fill in the sticker and put it on their jumper. We shall then share this in class. This supports your child 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'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. We also use the online platform Evidence Me. Any observations we share with you will be personal to your child.

When we start PE lessons in a few weeks (this will be communicated via the end of week letter). We will initially focus on taking off shoes and socks and exploring space. You can support your child in being ready for PE by helping them know and recognize their own belongings, as well as beginning to dress themselves and putting on their own shoes and socks.

Assemblies: We will have very short "star celebration" assemblies on the last Friday of each month which you are very welcome to join us for. This is an opportunity to celebrate the children and how they are responding to and demonstrating our school values and characteristics of effective learning.

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. 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.

Children should bring a named water bottle to school every day. The children place it in their coloured group bottle carrier as they come in each morning. Please collect their book bag from the boxes and check your child's drawer when you come into the nursery garden to collect your child at home time. Parents are reminded that children are only allowed to drink water in school.

## **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. 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. We will also read our own name and other labels within our learning environment. You can support your child by practicing name recognition at home, as well as reading familiar labels – the cereal aisle in supermarkets is great to support this.

### **Writing:**

Across the setting there will be lots of opportunities for mark making, drawing and writing. We will be encouraging the children to talk about their mark making and will annotate the children's marks if need be. We will explore mark making and writing with a range of mediums such as chalk, crayons and paint.

## **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'll 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. 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 parachute games.

### **Personal, Social and Emotional Development**

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

### **Useful Dates for Nursery Parents**

- Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> September: School photos (can include photo with siblings)
- Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> September: School Fete 3-6pm
- Tues 5<sup>th</sup> Oct: 6.30pm Supporting your child's learning in the EYFS information evening
- Monday 11<sup>th</sup> October: Harvest Festival Assembly
- Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> October: Parent Consultations
- Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> October: Parent Consultations
- Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> October: PTA Halloween Disco
- Monday 25<sup>th</sup> October: Half Term
- Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> November: British Values Day and Remembrance Day Assembly
- Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> November: Safer Internet Day
- Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> December: Christmas Fair
- Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> December: EYFS Christmas Show
- Monday 20<sup>th</sup> December: EYFS School Pantomime
- Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> December: End of Term

Other events such as star (certificate) assemblies, themes 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.