

Early Years Autumn Term 2 Newsletter

Dear parent/carers

Welcome back for the second half of the Autumn Term. The children have well and truly settled in to school and are much more familiar with routines and expectations. We have really enjoyed getting to know them and finding out what they enjoy, what they can do and what they know.

Thank you for coming to hear the children sing in the last week before half term. The children certainly enjoyed sharing the songs we had learnt with you and we hope you enjoyed hearing them.

At the end of this week, we will be visiting Tang Hall Explore Library to listen to stories and collect our free Book Trust book. If you haven't paid for the visit please do so via Parentpay this week.

Our focus observations of three children per week will continue this half term. By Christmas, everyone will have been a focus child and you will have had a meeting with Mrs Carr to discuss how your child is doing.



We



We are also pleased to see so many people accessing the Tapestry Online Learning Journey, looking at the observations we have made and adding their own. Evidence from home can be included in our end of year observations, so any information about what your child does away from school is highly valuable.

Please send the planner and games to school **EVERY DAY**. We will begin reading activities with a group each day in the coming weeks and introduce reading books as the children are ready. The days will change from week to week, so it is important to always have everything in school. Please complete reading activities with your child regularly. We know they can be very tired at the end of a full day at school, so we do not expect you to spend a long time on this – little and often is best.

Please continue to enjoy your favourite stories at home. This is the ideal way to help children develop a love of reading. Talk about the books you read. Re-read familiar books, encouraging your child to join in and remember what happens in the story. When reading new stories, see if your child can 'guess' what might happen next.

Balance Bike Sessions

We are in the process of arranging some free balance bike training sessions for the children with Bikeability. These sessions run for 4 weeks and the children will be trained on how to use a balance bike effectively to develop important balance and safety skills in order to ride a two-wheeled bike. All children in Early Years will take part in the session – including those who are able to ride a two-wheeled bike already. The children will benefit from time spent outside doing physical activity, developing their listening and understanding skills and learning how to be safe when riding. We will inform you when these sessions are due to start.



PE and Forest Schools

PE will continue to be on Friday afternoons. Please make sure full PE kit is in school at all times and is named.

Forest schools will move to a Wednesday afternoon. Please send forest clothes and wellies in a named bag. We will change into forest clothes after lunch. The children will usually come home in their forest clothes to maximise time outside. As the weather will be getting colder and wetter, please ensure your child brings appropriate clothing and footwear for an afternoon outside – remember gloves and extra socks to wear with wellies. Layers are especially useful at this time of year for ensuring your child stays warm. We will do forest schools, whatever the weather, unless it is dangerous. Our motto is "There is no such thing as inappropriate weather, just inappropriate clothing!"

You may have noticed our growing collection of lost property items. All of these are un-named. Please take the time to check uniform, PE kit, forest school clothes, coats and wellies to ensure everything is named. If you find you have anything at home that does not belong to your child, please bring it back to school so we can reunite it with its owner.

Learning

We will continue to follow the children's interests and teach through play. We will also continue our whole class sessions of phonics where we will develop phonological awareness (the ability to hear sounds and rhymes) through singing nursery rhymes and playing games like I spy. We will also teach some more letters – their names and the sounds they make - and practise blending (putting the sounds together c-a-t, cat) and segmenting (splitting a word into sounds - dog, d-o-g)



In our maths lessons, we will sort and compare groups of objects, explore finding one more and one less than numbers 1-5 and exploring time through using timers, ordering stories and events in the day and thinking about the days of the week.

We will continue to do our daily story telling session. So far, many of the children have told 2 stories which have been written down by an adult, then acted out in front of the class later the same morning. The children enjoy these sessions and regularly ask if they can tell their story.

Christmas



It won't be long before we begin preparing for the Phase 1 (Early Years and Year 1) Christmas performance. We will soon begin to learn the songs and will then allocate parts. You will be sent information about what part your child has in the performance and the costume they will need. The performances will be on Tuesday 10th December in the afternoon and Wednesday 11th December in the morning. More details will be sent out nearer the time.

Other activities for the children include:
Christmas party – Monday 16th December
School visit to the cinema - Wednesday 18th December
School Christmas dinner - Wednesday 18th December
Visit to the church for Carols – Friday 20th December

PTA Events

Wednesday 6th November AGM – 9am in the school hall
Friday 6th December – Christmas Fair (more details to follow)

We look forward to another successful half term in Early Years, as always, if you have any comments or questions, please speak to a member of staff.

Rachel Carr Ann Bradley

