



Harvey Road School

Nursery Class

Autumn 2015

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 and what we have been up to.

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 more personal, social and emotional aspects of learning. The children will become familiar with class routines, the timetable and how we behave in Nursery. All of this is taught through stories, circle time, 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 Number time, Phonics, Dough disco, Action songs and PE. The children will not need a PE kit initially.

I shall be introducing our two new 'Show and tell bags' which will go home with two children on a Monday. The children can fill the bags with special items, pictures, memories etc that they would like to share on the following Friday. This is a fabulous opportunity for speaking and listening as well as gaining support from peers and building confidence. It also gives us an insight into the child's life at home. Children must leave toys and other items for showing at home until their time for the bag.

Language in Early Years is the key. You can help at home by modelling, explaining and reading regularly to your child. Build a breadth of language experience. We will also send home 'Ask me about stickers'. 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 in class.

Learning Journey books: 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 will also send home the 'WOW!' moments to fill in and share.

P.E. lessons are on Friday morning but we will start by just taking off shoes and socks. Help your child prepare for changing at home ready for full PE kits next term.

Assemblies: We will have very short "star celebration" assemblies once a month on a Friday which you are very welcome to join us for. The first one will be on Friday 2nd.

Each child will be 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, this enables us to focus on the children settling into class each day.

During the first week each child will receive a water bottle to bring to school every day. The children place it in their group tray each morning. Please collect from their tray each day. (Parents are reminded that children are only allowed to drink water in school).

PPA cover is provided by the nursery team on Tuesday mornings, once a fortnight.

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, 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:

We will be encouraging talking about mark making and annotating the children's marks. Depending on how well the children are doing with their listening in phonics, we may start letter/ sound recognition after half term.

Communication and Language

To encourage good speaking and listening skills, staff will be modelling polite language, sharing circle times with their key groups and consistently reminding children of key listening behaviours. In phonics time children will be focusing on listening (Phase 1) 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.

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.

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 our traffic light 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

- Tuesday 22nd Sept: Information evening for parents; “how we teach to read and write” 7.30pm in hall
- Fri 25th Sept: Macmillan coffee morning 9.15am – 10.15 (Please stay and buy some cakes!)
- Fri 26 Sept: Parent helper meeting 2.30pm in hall
- Fri 2nd October Star Assembly at 9.10am
- Fri 10 October Star Assembly at 9.10am
- Fri 23rd October - Star Assembly at 9.10am and last day of term
- Mon 26th October – Fri 30th October – Half term
- Friday 6th November – Stay and Play (All parents welcome to stay and play with their child until 10.30)
- Fri 20th November - Star Assembly at 9.10am
- Tue 20th / Thur 22nd October: Parent’s Evenings
- Sat 5th Dec – Xmas Fair
- Christmas productions: Tues 8th Dec at 1.45pm and Wed 9th at 6pm (all adults welcome)
- Tues 11th Dec at 10am: Christmas Carol Service at All Saint’s Church (all welcome)
- Fri 18th Dec - end of term