



Harvey Road School

Nursery Class

Autumn 2016

Dear Parents,

We 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 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 until after half term.

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' after half term. 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 Tuesday 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 half 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. We will send dates in the Friday newsletter.

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.

Children should bring a water bottle to school every day. The children place it in their group tray as they come in each morning. Please collect it from their tray 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.

PPA cover is provided by the nursery team on Friday mornings, once a fortnight. Mrs Shillibeer will teach in Nursery on Wednesdays.

Best Regards,
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 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.

Writing:

In our graphics area there will be lots of opportunities for mark making and writing. We will be encouraging talking about 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 key worker groups. In phonics time 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.

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.