



Harvey Road School

Reception Class

Autumn 2016

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.

Reading: Please read with and to your child on a daily basis, little and often is most beneficial. It's important to share a variety of texts including: newspapers; magazines; catalogues; lists; leaflets; coupons as well as fact and fiction books. School reading books will be coming home in a few weeks' time, you child will have a reading record in which you can let us know how they get on with each book and let us know when it is ready to be changed. Encourage your child to re-read the books and talk about the stories/content as much as possible. Please do make sure that you sign the reading record when you are ready for the book to be changed so that we know to change it.

Learning Journey books: Your child's learning journey will be our assessment tool throughout the year. Please share any achievements and special occasions from home as these provide excellent additions to the learning journeys. We will also be sending home a sheet of 'Ask me about' stickers, these should be used as often as the children choose and can tell us about family events big and small from weddings to trips to the park. We will have a learning journey review towards the end of the term when you are invited to come in and look at your child's journal and write a comment.

Library: Books changed every Thursday. Please make sure your child has their school Library book in school on this day.

P.E.: P.E lessons are on Wednesdays but children should have their PE kit in school at all times.

Assemblies: We will have very short "star celebration" assemblies once a month on a Friday which you are very welcome to join us for. See table for dates.

Staffing: Mrs Garton, our nursery nurse, will be in class everyday with the children. Mrs Michael will be in class every morning except for alternate Fridays. On a Thursday the class will be taught by Mrs Shillibeer in the morning and Mrs Garton supported by Mrs Pyle in the afternoon.

Please ensure all clothing is clearly named and check size of footwear regularly

Help needed: We would love you to come in and help in the classroom. We are looking for people to commit to helping for 1 morning a week or on an ad-hoc basis. We are also looking for someone to volunteer to do cooking regularly?! As mentioned in the induction meeting we would also like a representative from each family to come in once at some point in the year, children get so much pleasure from having a family member in class and it is not possible for lots of families to come in regularly. Please come and speak to me when you would like to do this.

Communication and Language

Listening: We will be doing lots of listening to each other and adults in the school. We'll be listening to class stories and to music, singing songs and listening to each other's voices.

Understanding: We will be following 1 and 2 step instructions, understanding humour using: a weekly joke spot, nonsense rhymes and funny poems.

Speaking: We will be developing conversational skills in the role play area. Children will talk to the class about events from home using the 'Ask me about' stickers and the other children will be encouraged to ask sensible questions to be answered. We'll be developing story language through the puppet theatre and small world play.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Self-confidence and self-awareness: Settling into routine. Developing confidence and independence.

Making relationships: Children will be given opportunities through circle time and daily activities to initiate conversations, ask questions of others and resolve conflicts with each other.

Managing feelings and behaviour: Introduction of "Circle time": - discussion of friendships and feelings and how to help one another in school. We will work together to determine our class rules for the learning environment.

Physical Development

Moving and Handling: We will experiment with ways of moving and responding to music through dance. The children will also have access to a range of apparatus in our outside area to encourage them with climbing, moving with control and ball skills.

Health and Self-care: Dressing skills. Health and bodily awareness. Sitting in chairs properly eg to aid handwriting skills. We will also focus daily for 10 minutes on fine motor skills in 'Busy Fingers'.

Literacy

Reading: We will be learning about sounds, looking at initial sounds of words, sound blending and identifying sounds within words. We will introduce early phonics reading schemes including picture books for language development, moving onto books with words when children are ready for them. We will be sequencing familiar stories.

Writing: We use Read Write Inc to help develop sound recognition alongside correct letter formation. Children will be learning to segment simple words and to write them using correct letter formation and pencil control, ensuring the correct pencil grip.

Mathematics

Number: Introduction of EYFS objectives in stages including sorting, ordering, counting numbers 1-5, and up to 10 and beyond as appropriate. Recognition of numbers 1-5 and up to 10 and beyond as appropriate. Develop number formation correctly to 10 and beyond as appropriate. Begin using mathematical vocabulary; i.e. one more, one less, bigger, smaller, longer, shorter.

Shape, space and measures: Shape recognition including 2D and 3D. Number stories and rhymes.

Understanding the World

People and communities: Children will look at how we are all different from each other. We will think about how different people have different likes and dislikes, skills and talents, and begin to think about feelings. We will talk about celebrations in our families, focusing on birthdays. We will learn about people who help us in our lives and routines.

The world: We will look at the physical similarities and differences between members of the class, and people from different nationalities. We will focus on animals, animal environments and animal food after half term.

Technology: Children will begin to develop mouse control, to click and drag objects on a screen, to use shapes and colours within specific programmes to create pictures of familiar objects, animals and people.

Expressive Arts and Design

Exploring media and materials: Self portraits, begin colour mixing; collage work. Christmas pictures and decorations.

Music: Singing, using percussion instruments, experiencing rhythm, Christmas production songs.

Imagination: We will develop our role play area tailored to the children's interests. We have begun with a home corner.

Useful Dates for Reception Class Parents

- Tues 20 Sept: Phonics evening for parents
- Fri 23 Sept: Star Assembly, 9.10am
- Fri 23 Sept: Parent helper meeting 2.30pm in hall
- Tues 29 Sept: Harvest Festival 10am in hall
- Mon 3 Oct: school photos
- Fri 14 Oct: Star Assembly followed by Stay and Play session in class, 9.10am
- Tue 18/Wed 19 Oct: Parent's Evenings
- Fri 11 Nov: Star Assembly 9.10am
- Thurs 15 Dec at 10am: Christmas Carol Service at All Saint's Church (all welcome)
- Tues 20 Dec; Christmas dinner
- Wed 21 Dec; 2.30pm end of term