

## Reception Parent Letter - Autumn Term 2018



In reception at Cherry Orchard, the majority of learning occurs during child initiated time, with the children independently selecting the activities they would like to participate in, depending on their current interests. The staff team then follow these interests, interacting with the children to identify their next steps and supporting them to achieve their own goals. In the Autumn term, we will be focusing on interactions which will allow children to practise and develop skills across the 3 prime areas of the Early Years Framework. These include all of the following and many more!

### Communication & Language:

- Listening to stories
- Asking and answering questions
- Expressing their ideas and opinions
- Following instructions

### Physical:

- Running, jumping, climbing, digging, riding bikes and scooters to strengthen large muscles
- Fine motor activities to strengthen small muscles

### Personal, Social & Emotional:

- Trying new things
- Talking about feelings and behaviour
- Taking turns and listening to others
- Making new friends

Children will also have opportunities to begin developing skills across the 4 specific areas; literacy, maths, understanding the world and expressive arts & design. We will have whole class sessions for phonics, maths and other topics/areas based on the children's needs and interests.

If you would like to read any further about the expectations of the Early Years or how you can provide the best support, please use the following link to access the Department for Education's guidance - 'What to expect, when?'

[https://www.foundationyears.org.uk/files/2015/03/4Children\\_ParentsGuide\\_2015\\_WEB.pdf](https://www.foundationyears.org.uk/files/2015/03/4Children_ParentsGuide_2015_WEB.pdf)

### P.E.

Children will have an introductory session with the P.E. coach on Friday 14th September. They will remain in school uniform for this session. From the week beginning 17th September, children will have a weekly P.E. session with the coach. They will stay in uniform for the first week but will need their P.E. kits for every session after that. We recommend leaving P.E. kits at school as much as possible, in case there are any additional P.E. sessions or timetable changes and for any after school clubs they may attend.

- **Chestnuts** - Monday PM
- **Juniper** - Friday AM (you may wish to send children into school in their P.E. kits on Friday mornings. If so, please take P.E. bags home on Thursday after school and send school uniform in P.E. bag)

### Library

Children will have a weekly library session, during which they will listen to a story and have the opportunity to choose a book they would like to take home. Children will only be able to bring home a new library book if they have returned the previous week's.

- **Chestnuts** - Monday PM
- **Juniper** - Friday AM

## Music

Mrs Stroud, our music teacher, will join children during child initiated time once a week. They will be able to participate in a range of activities, learning autumn songs, songs about themselves and developing rhythm and listening skills. They will also be able to choose if they would like to attend a music assembly on Tuesday mornings.

## Home Learning:

- Listening to and discussing stories, both from home and library
- Practising sounds from green sound booklets (these will come home a few weeks after the start of term)
- Using maths in everyday activities at home (counting stairs, cooking/baking, talking about the time)

## Tapestry:

If you have returned the Tapestry consent form you should now be able to access your child's learning journey, to view and comment on their learning at school. Please **check your email for an activation link**, this may have been sent to your spam, so check there too. You can then also upload photos of your child's home learning and important events, trips or visits. The children love sharing their photos and telling us all about what they have been up to! If you are having any problems setting up or using Tapestry, please come and let us know. **If you haven't returned the consent form, please do this as soon as possible.** We often send out parent information via tapestry, so please keep an eye out for email notifications.

## Pick up & drop off:

Thank you very much for your cooperation while we are getting used to the daily routines with the children. As of Monday 17th September we are asking all parents to say goodbye to their children at the black gates and staff will take them inside to start their school day. Many of the children are finding it much harder to settle while there are still lots of parents in the cloakroom and classrooms and it is important for them to begin learning morning routines independently.

Due to the large number of parents waiting to collect at home time, please can all Chestnut class parents wait to the left hand side of the gate, and all Juniper class parents to the right. There will be signs on the fences for each class area and this will ensure that the class teacher can see the correct parents from the classroom windows. Your child will only be sent to the TAs at the door if the class teacher has seen that you are outside. If you need to collect any forgotten belongings or talk to a staff member, please wait until all other children have been dismissed from the classroom as staff need to ensure the safety of the children as the first priority. Having children and parents coming back inside makes it very difficult to know which children have been sent to parents and which have not.

## Contact:

Don't forget you can use your child's reading record book if you have any questions, or something you need to tell us. If you have written a message in the reading record, please can you leave it open inside your child's A4 folder so we can see it in the morning. Similarly, if we write a message we will send the reading record home open in the folder. Alternatively please come and speak to us at the end of the day, after all of the children have been dismissed :)

Finally, please can we remind you to **name everything** that your child brings into school with them, including all uniform, cardigans/jumpers, ties, wellies, coats, school shoes, water bottles and lunch boxes. We are finding lots of unnamed items which cannot then be returned to the correct child.

Can we also ask that children do not bring in any toys or other items from home that they do not need in school as these can get lost or damaged, or take up space in the cloakroom which is needed for school items. This includes large bags or backpacks with stationery or other items from home.

Thank you again for your support,

Reception Team