

Meeting for new parents – Monday 3rd July 2017

Staffing in the EYFS

- DP Mrs Sandmann (Class teacher) Miss Hone (TA)
- M Mrs Smuts (Class teacher) Mrs Rouse (TA)

Starting school

- Please encourage your child to come into classroom independently
- We will be at the door to welcome them
- A quick goodbye and hand over to us is always best
- Those that have been visiting will already be used to coming in on their own.
- The children may have wobbles after first week or 2
- This is perfectly normal and quite common - again is best to say goodbye quickly and hand over to a teacher (easier said than done!)
- This is harder for parents than the children - They do stop as soon as you've left and have forgotten all about it - Please don't let it upset the rest of your day (They will be fine!)
- We will always try to ring you to put mind at rest!
- The children will be very tired at first - possibly grumpy.
- The children will pick up bugs and coughs and colds. It is usually fine to send them to school with colds and coughs. We will always contact you if feel they're not coping.
- If your child is too unwell to attend school, please phone the school to let us know.
- If a child has been sick they should not return to school for 48 hours.
- Please check the Medical Policy on the school website for details of guidelines in case of infectious illnesses.
- If your child has long term conditions including asthma, allergies need to complete healthcare plan on website
- All children will have a water bottle supplied on their first day - They will need to bring their bottle and book bag every day.
- When first start school will bring home a reading book straight away - probably without words - for discussion. Please sign / date / comment each time you share the book together. We like to change the books regularly- will not be changed if not signed.
- Will also each week bring home Jolly Phonics book and 3 new keywords to practise reading.
- This does sound a lot but should just do little and often - not all at once.
- Class bear - diary to fill in when he comes to visit!

Parents as partners

- We very much value parents as partners in your child's education. We are very keen to involve you as much as possible.
- You will be invited to contribute to planning our topics, and keeping us up to date about your child's learning at home -boards in the classroom devoted to 'news from home', and 'what we would like to learn' also wish upon a star.
- We will provide ideas for challenges and activities for you and children to work together on at home to support their learning - open ended rather than prescriptive 'homework'.
- We provide lots of opportunities for you to come in and get involved - often invited to arrive early for pick up time - e.g. pet shows, sampling our cooking, this Cafe, Mother's day tea, class museum, photos/ topic work.
- We would like to have as many parents into school as possible to share their expertise.
- We invite you to work alongside children in school.

Progress updates

We will keep you informed about what we are doing and your child's progress in a number of ways:

- Weekly information on our e-schools class page
- 2 simple observations - one a week with suggestions to take learning forward at home - please email back home observations
- Progress Meetings- (Rolling program once per half term proving popular with parents in school time)
- End of year report
- These are the official updates but you are always welcome to speak to a teacher at any time if concerned or have any questions - after school is best for longer chats
- We will always speak to you if we have concerns

LPPA (Leading Parent Partnership Award)

- Please get involved!
- We are working towards the Leading Parent Partnership Award, developing ways to fully involve parents in all aspects of school life.

Preparing for school

- Dressing / undressing independently is expected for PE right from beginning.
- Children need to be able to undo and fasten buttons and zips.
- Children must wear coats and shoes they are able to fasten themselves - they will be in and out of their coats many times during the school day
- We also expect children to use the toilet independently - including undressing / dressing , personal hygiene and washing hands afterwards.
- If you have any concerns or problems with this please do discuss this with us

Expectations - Writing

- Please don't feel under pressure for child to be able to write name before they start school.
- We will be teaching this in first term alongside cursive formation of the letters.
- If they are already writing their name please ensure they only use a capital letter for the initial letter and try to make sure they are forming the letters correctly.
- It is much easier to start teaching this from scratch than to try to reteach something they have already learned to do a different way
- On induction day children will receive a name card with their name written in the cursive script as we will be teaching it next year.
- You will find the cursive alphabet as a reference in pack.
- Correct Pencil grip also very important.

How you can help

- Encourage your child to dress and undress with less support.
- Practice changing into and from school uniform and PE kit.
- Helping your child to fasten buttons, zips, buckles, shoes etc...
- Share books and discuss them.
- Learn nursery rhymes if children know eight nursery rhymes by heart by the time they're four years old, they're usually among the best readers by the time they're eight." (Mem Fox's book Reading Magic)
- Count aloud - chant but also what the number actually means - amounts and spot numbers in the environment (on doors, etc...)
- Play 'I-spy' sounding out the words e.g. st - ar.
- Please prepare 'All about me' topic boxes for September 2017 - Decorate a shoe box and add items that reflect your child - photos of family / pets / friends, favourite toy, something in their favourite colour, picture of their favourite food, etc...
- Topic web - You will receive an induction day.
- Booklet 'What to expect when' from the Foundation Years website.
- <http://www.foundationyears.org.uk/2015/03/what-to-expect-when-a-parents-guide/>

Timings and Routines

Typical day

- A member of the school staff will welcome you and your child at 8.40am/8.45am.
- A typical day in the foundation stage will begin with 'Jolly Phonics', fun games and actions to help the children learn the skills required to begin reading and writing - how to say the letter sounds, blend and segment them.
- It is important that children are taught to say the sounds as they actually sound in words - sss not 'suh'
- Will be holding a phonics workshop for all FS parents on Monday 11th September 6.30pm here at Drayton Parslow, to give you a lot more detail about the way we teach phonics and how you can support this at home - Really important that you try to come along to this so giving plenty of notice!
- Children in the FS learn through real experiences and purposeful play. They spend the rest of the day engaging in a variety of exciting and stimulating activities, both inside and outside, that are carefully planned to interest and challenge them.
- Some activities will be adult planned and led, others will be independently chosen by the children.
- We stop for fruit and milk at 10.15am, after which the children join the rest of the school for playtime.
- LBM (little Big Maths) - 15 mins after break (There will be a demo session in Autumn term)
- There is a daily assembly for the whole school at 11.45am which may be led by a teacher or member of the clergy. This is followed by lunchtime, from 12.00pm until 1.00pm, when the children eat their hot meal or packed lunch together before playing outside.
- The afternoon session is from 1.00pm until 3.10pm (Drayton Parslow) or 3.15pm (Mursley) during which time the children will again be involved in a wide range of activities which may include PE, cooking, gardening, creative and investigative work.
- Children are collected from the playground when school finishes.

Cooking

- Each week a small group will cook - Each child's turn will come round about once every 3 weeks. We feel it is important that each child cooks the whole recipe themselves - they do not all stand around one bowl waiting to have a stir!
- Each child is asked to contribute ingredients that are shared among the group - details are sent out in advance and reminders on the Eschools page!

P.E

- Once a week.
- Children will only need black shorts, school PE T-shirt
- Children need trainers in the summer term for outside PE

PLEASE ENSURE EVERYTHING IS CLEARLY NAMED

- All items for PE need to be kept in named PE bag on their peg

Forest School

- We are very lucky to be able to take children to woods at SW one afternoon each week for FS.
- Exploring their natural surroundings and working together at exciting activities such as tracking, building shelters and campfires, and creative projects.
- This is a very valuable experience for all the children and they benefit a great deal from the outdoor learning environment,
- On FS days wear normal uniform on top, black jogging bottoms and school shoes.
- They will need a pair of wellies - (Children can use the wellies that are kept in school) and also a set of waterproofs - including jacket and trousers not all in one (We recommend 'Muddy puddles' online)

Trips and visits

- We believe strongly in the value of real learning experiences and are very fortunate to have school minibuses that we use regularly to take the children out and about.
- This year for example; we have been on visits to Tesco's, Green Dragon Farm, Mead Open Farm, fire station, train ride, Whipsnade Zoo, strawberry picking.
- The running costs for the minibuses are covered by a small charge.