



RHODES AVENUE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Year: Reception

Autumn Term 2017

Curriculum News letter (Termly Class Letter)

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Nursery Nurses: Anna Milic, Donna Obertelli, Maria Ktorou and Margaret Stow

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Issue 1

Introduction

Firstly, welcome to all our parents/carers who are new to Rhodes Avenue and to all parents/carers of children who have entered Reception after having attended our Nursery. The Early Years are the formative years of your child's education and we build upon the foundations laid down by you and previous settings. It has been a very exciting and productive beginning to the term. This time of year is about building relationships: your child with his/her peers, with staff and the wider school community. We are so thrilled with how well the children have settled into 'big school' and thank you for all your support during this process. We hope that you found the hand book both informative and helpful and we look forward to seeing you at the Reception Meeting on Monday 2nd October at 2.45 pm.

We have been observing the children and have been setting up activities from their own interests which we believe has helped facilitate the settling in period. We have already begun exploring the theme 'Marvellous Me and Fantastic Friends' and the children have been busy making new friends.

This half term, our topic is 'Marvellous Me and Fantastic Friends'.

Prime Areas

Personal, Social & Emotional

- Getting to know each other and developing their confidence.
- Learning names
- Introducing routines/codes of conduct/ children to generate their class rules.
- Listening to instructions
- Coming into school and separating from their carer
- Practice hygiene routines - toileting, hand washing
- Turn taking games

Physical Development

- Explore the outdoor area and apparatus, balancing and climbing
- Use tools appropriately for play dough and malleable materials
- Using a pencil and other tools and equipment
- Ribbon dancing and ball games
- Healthy food and staying for lunch
- We will be following the school's PE scheme for some of our PE sessions.

Communication and Language

- Speaking and listening games
- Songs and rhymes about ourselves
- Sharing stories: fairy tales with repeating language
- Listening/responding to stories that they are interested in and books about 'Big School'
- Introducing the book area and talking about their favourite stories/ characters.
- Inventing and drawing stories in groups

Specific Areas

Literacy

- Introducing the mark making and writing area
- Self registration, finding their own name.
- Fun blending games with toys asking 'Can you touch your ch-i-n chin and your b-a-ck back etc' and looking at key words
- Gross and Fine motor activities such as threading, tweezers, pegs boards and making and using play dough.
- Making marks in the sand, salt, rice and on paper
- Handling books carefully & holding them up the correct way
- Starting our daily phonics lessons

We will provide more information about this area on the information session later in the half term. We will give you a CD to help you say the sounds correctly and provide extra handouts to help you support your child at home.

Mathematics

- Counting from child initiated objects e.g. trains, dinosaurs
- Count the letters in their name
- Numbers songs and rhymes – '10 in a bed', 'Flying saucer' etc
- Finding numbers in their own environment e.g. looking for numbers on the bikes and ordering them in the outdoor area.
- Looking for shapes in their environment and learning shape songs

Understanding the World

- Autumn walk/display/leaf printing
- Making play dough
- Cooking and baking in the kitchen, what is their favourite food? Why?
- Circle times on why we are all different and special.
- Eating lunch at school.
- Introduce the computer suite in the 'Activity Street'

Expressive Arts & Design

- First painting - self –portrait
- Dancing
- Create an Autumn area with a variety of different media
- Singing familiar songs
- Exploring sounds in music lessons

Observations and Planning for the Children's Progression

In the Reception classes, both the teacher and the nursery nurse observe your children in different contexts. For example, they will be observed in both focus activities led by their teacher and activities which have been set up by the team that they choose to go to independently. The children are unaware they are being observed and by making observations the teacher can plan the next step of learning for your child.

The Reception team incorporate child-initiated activities in order to personalise learning for your child and get them excited about coming to school. For example, if your child enjoys playing with trains they might do practical activities such as counting with trains. We have three observation children a week and during this time we do numerous observations and then individual activities are set up for each child the following week. When your child is an observation child you will receive a question sheet so we can find out your child's interests at home. Your comments along with their observations can help us to set up activities that will motivate your child and help their development progress.

Despite having three children each week we do observe all children and if your child is showing a particular interest in something at home please do come and tell a member of the team as we can still try to incorporate it into the planning.

School Trips

Our trips are to be confirmed.

Educational visits are an important aspect of the Rhodes Avenue Curriculum. School visits and trips provide the opportunity to enrich learning outside of the classroom and inspire learning back at school.

We aim to take the children on as many school trips as possible however we recognise this can become costly. We have decided this year to set a maximum limit on the amount we ask you to pay for trips over the whole year to £30. The school will make every effort to keep the cost of the educational visits to a minimal by using public transport or by visiting free exhibitions.

Key Person

As explained in the meeting and on the website, it is a statutory requirement that your child has a key person in their classroom environment. This means, that either the class teacher or nursery nurse is your child's key person and that they will be there to provide extra support for your child if they need it. The key person system has been adopted so that young children gain as much emotional support as possible during their early stages of development. Despite using a key person system in our school, the class teacher takes full responsibility for all the children and then works with the nursery nurse to make sure that your child is happy and settled in their class.

Home Learning

Home Learning at Rhodes Avenue provides children with the opportunity to consolidate their classroom learning. The aim of home learning is to develop pupil independence, resilience and resourcefulness. They should be able to complete their home learning with minimal adult support however, if your child does struggle with the activities provided, please do not hesitate to speak to the class teacher. Each week your child will receive sounds to learn, some maths or topic activity and when ready a reading book or sound activity. Home learning book and the yellow book bags are sent home on a Thursday and returned to school the following Tuesday.

Important Autumn term dates for your diaries:

Reception Meeting	Monday 2nd October 2.45pm in Performance Hall
Half term	Monday 23 rd October until Friday 27 th October
INSET Day	Monday 30 th October
Individual photographs	Tuesday 7 th November
Jumble sale	Saturday 11 th November
Parents' evenings	Wed 15 th and Thurs 16 th November
Christmas fair	Saturday 2 nd December
Christmas Shows	TBC
Last day of term	21 st December 2017

Other Information

- * Please do not hesitate to speak to us if you have any questions about your child's learning.
- * We will be putting up a notice for parents to read a story after half term.
- * All important notices will be placed in the class notice boards and emailed so please make sure you include an email address to the office or the class reps.
- * We also need a change of clothes in a named bag please. This stays in school in a special box under their peg.
- * Please do not send toys in with your child as they often get lost and cause upset.
- * PE sessions are on a Friday morning, so please ensure that your child is wearing shoes they can easily manage with socks and not tights.

Healthy Schools

As part of school policy and our commitment to being a Healthy School we will provide a piece of fruit each day and a drink of milk. Children are able to select these for themselves throughout the day. Please also provide a drink of water in a named bottle. Water fountains are also in all areas of the Foundation building.

If you have any questions or queries, please do remember we are always here to help. Please speak to a member of the team to arrange a mutually convenient time, preferably after school as the start of our day is very busy.

We are looking forward to working with you,
Meghan, Myrtle and Laura

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