



RHODES AVENUE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Reception - Autumn Term 2018
Curriculum Newsletter (Termly Class Letter)
Class Teachers: Laura Moore, Sarah Snead and Myrtle Caldeira
Nursery Nurses: Maria Ktorou, Adriana Lôbo,
Donna Obertelli and Margaret Stow
Teaching Assistants: Betty Wang

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 handbook both informative and helpful and we look forward to seeing you at the Reception Meeting on **Monday 1st October at 2.45 pm in the Witham Hall.**

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 and encouraging children to generate their class rules
- Listening to instructions
- Coming into school and separating from their carer
- Practise hygiene routines – toileting and 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
- Beginning PE sessions with our PPA PE Teacher Wayne Burke-Georgiou in the Sports Hall.

Communication and Language

- Speaking and listening games
- Songs and rhymes about ourselves
- Introducing our core text to link to our topic
- Listening/responding to familiar stories and books about 'Big School'
- Introducing the book area and talking about their favourite stories/ characters
- Role playing with small world scenes and in our class role play areas

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 in the Reception information session in October.

Mathematics

- Counting from child initiated objects e.g. trains, dinosaurs
- Count the letters in their name
- Number 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
- Getting familiar with the technology equipment in the learning area

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 minimum by using public transport.

Key Person

As explained in the meeting in July, 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

The aim of home learning is to; consolidate and extend learning initiated within school, to promote independent pupil learning, to provide the opportunity for family or peer learning, encourage parental involvement in, and understanding of, the work their children to do at school. We actively promote children to listen to or read stories daily at home. Each week your child will receive sounds to consolidate phonics learning and one maths activity. A weekly round up of what we have been doing at school and home learning can be found on the school website and will be uploaded every Friday. Throughout the year there will be other opportunities for bigger tasks that will be optional. We will also be providing a termly list of things you can do at home with your child to continue their learning based around our topic.

Important Autumn term dates for your diaries:

Reception Meeting	Monday 1 st October 2.45pm in Witham Hall
Half term	Monday 22 nd October until Friday 26 th October
INSET Day	Monday 29 th October
Individual photographs	Tuesday 6 th November
Parents' evenings	Wednesday 14 th and Thursday 15 th November
Last day of term	Friday 21 st December

Other Information

- * Please do not hesitate to speak to us at the end of the school day if you have any questions about your child's learning.
- * 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 afternoon, so please ensure that your child is wearing shoes they can easily manage with socks and not tights.
- * If your child attends football club on Wednesdays, please send them to school in their football kit.

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 named water bottle. Water fountains are also available in the Foundation Stage 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.

We are looking forward to working with you,

Laura, Myrtle and Sarah

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