

Foundation Stage Newsletter

Term One

The children have settled in to school life really well – it is great to see so many smiling faces! Thank you for meeting with us to talk about your child's first few weeks at school; we hope you found the meetings useful in knowing what to expect in your child's first year of school.

Our newsletters aim to provide you with a termly overview of what we will be teaching in school and give you a few tips on how you can reinforce learning at home. Please also remember to check our Foundation Stage noticeboard, located on Cygnet's window, as well as our school website for more news and information.

Shh...we have a plan!

This term's topic is centred around the story "Shh! We have a plan" by Chris Haughton.

Birds feature in the story, so we have been learning about different birds and their habitats. We will also be looking at our local area and seeing how it changes as we move into autumn. The children have had lots of fun making nests, bird boxes and sitting in our bird hide looking for birds outside.

Please support your child by taking part in the talking topics sent home in your child's home journal.



Maths

Each week, we will be focusing on a particular number, which we will have on our notice board. Your child can practise reading the number symbol, the word, recognising it on a dice, making it with their fingers, and counting it with objects (being sure to count one object at a time!). Try comparing that number to other quantities, using words such as 'more', 'less' and 'fewer'. If given a group of objects, see if your child can talk about how they can make that focus number e.g. by adding more to the group or taking away.

We'd like children to be looking out for numbers all around them, so we are starting a hundred square display. Your child will be given a number to look for when out and about. Once found, please e-mail the photo for us to print for our hundred square at parkwood.foundationstage@gmail.com.

Literacy

It is always great to see children 'have a go' with writing. This term, we will be concentrating on developing the fine motor skills needed to gain an effective pencil grip. We have started learning how to form patterns consistent in shape and size, and if they are ready to move on, your child will be learning to write their name using "posh cursive script".

As you know, sitting and enjoying a book together is one of the most important things you can do to encourage your child to read. This is an opportunity to talk about the story and the characters, guess what might happen next, and spot any key words. You will find a list of your child's key words on their Reading Record.

Phonics

Your child has been participating in games to help them distinguish between different sounds, which in turn will help them hear sounds within words. Listening to environmental sounds and developing an awareness of rhyme will enable your child to access our formal phonics program (Read, Write, Inc). Please look on our website, under "Foundation Stage" for ideas of games you can play at home to help with this.

We look forward to inviting you in to the classrooms to take part in phonics activities with your child on **Tuesday 7th November** at 2:15pm. Additionally, we will be holding a phonics meeting for parents to explain more about Read Write Inc on **Tuesday 31st October** at 2:30-3:00pm. Please sign up with your child's class teacher if you are able to come to this.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/learning/schoolradio/subjects/earlylearning/nurserysongs>

General Notices

We are aiming for your child to gain greater independence. Please help us help them by ensuring that all belongings are labelled in a way your child will recognise. Please also continue to encourage your child to get ready for school independently, most importantly, putting on their own shoes and coat. When using the toilet, please help your child to remember to flush the chain and wash their hands after.

Thank you for writing in your child's yellow reading record each time you have read with them. Please ensure the reading record is kept in their book bag ready for us to use in school.

Please check that your child's completed menu has left their book bag – if you notice it is still in there after a few days, please hand it to a member of staff so that we can ensure your child gets the correct lunch each week.

As a school, we only allow children to bring in water for the classroom. If necessary, your child's class teacher will be happy to work with you in helping your child become accustomed to the taste of water. Please speak to your child's class teacher if you require support with this.

We have started sending Home Journals home every Friday. Please spend time talking to your child about the talking topic provided. You are welcome to use these Journals to add in photos whenever you like for your child to share in school. These photos do not need to be related to the talking topic.

A polite reminder that we are a **nut-free school**. We have severe allergies in school, therefore please keep this in mind when organising healthy packed lunches/snacks for your child. Thank you for your cooperation.



We love hearing about your child's achievements! Remember to write a WOW for our Wow Window so we can celebrate them in school. Alternatively, you can email your Wow to:

parkwoodfoundationstage@gmail.com

Thank you for bringing in your talking tubs. The children have enjoyed using them to tell us all about their holidays!

Dates for your diary:

20.10.17 – Last day of Term 1

30.10.17 - Flu immunisation

31.10.17 – Phonics meeting for parents (2:30-3:15) – info to follow

7.11.17– Fun with Phonics (parents welcome!) at 2:15pm in your child's classroom – please sign in at the classroom door on the day and you can sign your child out from school from 3pm onwards

w.b. 13.11.17 - World Nursery Rhyme week (info to follow)

17.11.17 - Nursery Rhyme dress-up day (info to follow)

12.12.17 - Christmas Nativity (2:30-3:00pm)

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