

Foundation Stage Newsletter

Term One

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

In a couple of weeks, our topic will be centred around the story "Shh! We have a plan" by Chris Haughton.

Before we introduce the story to the children, we will be continuing to focus on our school rules and teaching the children how to use their classroom environment. We will also be playing games to develop their listening and attention skills.

We will use our home journals to keep you posted on how our topic is progressing so that you can support at home.



Maths

It is important to us that the children develop a good sense of number whilst in Foundation Stage. For this reason, we explore numbers in great depth before rushing to higher numbers.

We will start with numbers up to 5, learning each number symbol, recognising it on a dice, making it with our fingers, and counting with objects (being sure to count one object at a time!). We'll also be "exploding" different numbers, for example, learning that 5 can be exploded into 4 and 1, 3 and 2 etc, and trying to memorise these number facts.

We'll be comparing numbers to other quantities, using words such as 'more', 'less' and 'fewer'.

You can help your child by looking out for numbers all around us, e.g. door numbers, car number plates. You can also use the flash cards provided to you.

Literacy

This term, we will be concentrating on developing the fine motor skills needed to gain an effective pencil grip. We will start learning how to form patterns consistent in shape and size, and when they are ready to move on, your child will be learning to write some letters in their name using cursive script. Please continue to practise fine motor skills at home, for example practising their coat zip, and use the name card puzzle to help them remember the order of the letters in their name.

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.

Phonics

Your child has been participating in games to help them notice the difference 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 16th October at 2:15pm**. Additionally, we will be holding a phonics meeting for parents to explain more about how we teach reading on **Monday 8th October at 14:30-15:00 or 16:30-17:00**. Please return the slip to let us know if you're able to come to these.

General Notices

We are always here to help your child, but we're aiming for them to develop their 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 the kitchen receives the menu by the Friday before.

For the first week of school lunches, we will be giving the children a sticker if they eat most or all of their lunch, to give you an idea about how they are getting on. ☺

We are trying hard to remember lots of faces! We now have a list of passwords for each child so please provide the password to anyone else picking your child up from school.

A Kent Messenger photographer is coming in on 1st October for the First Class photos. If you have not provided consent for your child's photo to appear in media but you would like them to appear in the photo, you will need to inform your child's class teacher and provide written permission. Thank you.

If you have not already done so, please sign up to Classlist at: <https://classlist.com/> - a place where the school shares information. We also put letters on our website, under "Year Groups – Foundation Stage".

We have a selection of fruit available for the children in school as well as milk, however, you are welcome to provide your child with a healthy snack too if you wish to do so.

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.

Dates for your diary:

1.10.17 – First Class newspaper photos

8.10.17 – Phonics meeting for parents (**2:30-3:00**
OR **4:30-5:00** – please return slip if you're attending)

16.10.18 – 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

19.10.17 – Last day of Term 1

w.b. 19.11.17 - World Nursery Rhyme week (info to
follow)

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

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



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:

parkwoodfs@outlook.com