



St Margaret's C.E. Primary School Foundation Stage Newsletter Autumn Term 2020

Dear Parents,

We hope that you have all had a lovely summer after the trials of 'Lockdown Life'! We are excited to be starting a new year back in school and are hopeful that with the systems we have in place, life can return to a greater degree of normality. We have made many adaptations, as you will appreciate, within the wider school and in class to enable us to operate safely within the guidance set out by Central Government. This means that the learning environment and learning itself will look different to normal. There will undoubtedly be teething problems but we anticipate that changes to routines will quickly be established and that life in school will return to a 'new normal'. The reception children have all settled very well into school! This term our topics will be 'Amazing Me' and 'Celebrations'. Within these topics, we will be following the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum. Below is a brief outline of what we will be covering within the seven areas of learning.

Communication and language

Stories and rhymes
Speaking and Listening
Role play

Physical Development

Basic skills- following instructions, stopping and starting, getting changed independently
Develop fine motor skills
Learn to handle equipment safely

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Beginning to understand feelings
Knowing 'I am special and unique'
Taking turns and sharing
Settling into school
Classroom rules and expectations

Literacy

Learn to recognise and write first name
Practise letter formation and recognition
Hearing and naming letter sounds in words
Basic word building- consonant/vowel/consonant words
Word recognition - high frequency words

Mathematics

Recognising and forming numbers 1-5
Counting and ordering numbers 1-5
Addition and Subtraction within numbers to 5
Length
Pattern
Position
2D shapes

Understanding the World

Describe and talk about ourselves, home and school

Investigate using our senses
Learn about our local environment
Harvest festival
Learn about the Jewish festival Sukkot
The Christian Creation story
Shabbat
The story of Christmas
Celebrations and traditions

Expressive Arts and Design

Experiment with different media and explore colours
Create sounds with different musical instruments, listen and respond to music
Use imagination in small world activities and role play

PSHE/RSE Curriculum

Health and Wellbeing

The importance of and how to maintain personal hygiene

Relationships

To identify their special people (family, friends, carers), and what makes them special and how special people should care for one another

Living in the Wider World

To recognise that they belong to various groups and communities such as family and school

Timetable

Please find attached a copy of our timetable. Please understand that the Early Years timetable is very flexible as children's interests and learning development is taken into account, as well as special events. This is given as guidance only. This year our PE day is a Tuesday. Please remember that your child should come to school already dressed for PE in line with our changes. Our class will continue to access Forest Schools throughout the year and we will let you know in advance so that appropriate clothing can be worn to school on those days.

Reading

We will soon be sending home reading books with your child. These will match your child's level of phonics knowledge and comprehension ability. Please record any reading you do with your child in their reading record. We recommend at first, you look at the inside front cover of the book where you will find information for parents regarding the sounds and tricky words you might find. There are also some ideas of activities to do with your child before, during and after reading the book. Then, concentrate on word recognition and understanding the meaning of any new words. If your child is struggling with some of the words, you could make a flash card and practise it separately from the book. Finally, talk about the book with your child to check comprehension skills. Reading regularly at home helps them to make good progress and we advise trying to read for 10 minutes per day. Children should have their school reading book in their bag on a daily basis to enable us to listen to them read. Children will also have access to library books, however please bear with us whilst we work this out as it may look different. This year reading books will be changed weekly on a Friday and **must** be returned by Wednesday to allow a quarantine period for books. This year we continue to use online reading scheme 'Bug Club'. We will soon send out your child's log in details for this.

Homework

Homework will soon be sent home. It will be set on a Friday and will be collected in on a Wednesday. We understand that your child will have other activities outside of school and may

have difficulty completing tasks on a set night. If this is the case, please complete the homework when time is available.

School Uniform

Please can you ensure that **all** clothing is named. If it is clearly named we can return it to the child. We often have many jumpers, cardigans and coats left behind without names. PE kits should be worn on Tuesdays.

Coats

Please ensure that your child **always** has a named coat in school as we will be outdoors as much as possible.

Book bags

Just a polite reminder that we do not have much space in our classrooms and therefore we ask that children **do not** bring in large rucksacks, as these do not fit in the storage areas and cause a trip hazard. They need a book bag to hold their reading books, library book and homework book and a named water bottle which must be taken home, washed and refilled each day.

Drop off and pick up

Reception children will be dropped off at the Infant Gate at **9.10**. An older sibling may bring your reception child to the EYFS cloakroom door at their drop off time.

Reception children are to be collected from the main entrance gates (Red class from the vehicle gate; Blue class from the pedestrian gate) at **3pm**. Please stand on the correct side and leave through the middle once you have collected your child. Children will be sent out alphabetically. If you wish your child to be collected by their older sibling please inform the office. Your child will be held in the EYFS outdoor area to wait for their sibling and leave with them at the time your older child finishes.

Please adhere to these times to comply with our staggered start and finish in line with our Covid Risk Assessment.

If your child will be collected by someone other than yourself, you must inform the office.

Dates

October Half term: Friday 23rd October - Monday 2nd November

Parents' Evening telephone conferences: Monday 9th & Tuesday 10th November

Christmas Holidays: Friday 18th December - Tuesday 5th January

Communication

We will do our best to keep you informed of any changes and with that in mind are going to retain the Dojo messaging system for communication (new invites for your new class will be sent out in the coming days) so that you have a means of direct communication with staff. If you have any queries or issues these can be emailed to the office for the attention of the class teacher. This year we will be conducting our Parents' Evening via a 10 minute telephone call to discuss how your child has settled in and update you about their learning. Please be assured that if we have any concerns, we will get in touch with you. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Thank you very much for your co-operation,

Miss Heightley and Mrs McNicholas