



Autumn 2

Half Term Information for Parents

Early Years

Happy children aiming high

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Early Years! We hope you are ready for the exciting term ahead! We look forward to continuing to get to know you and your children and working together to help ensure their start at New Hartley is successful. This information sheet tells you about the theme being followed for this half term. We hope that you find it useful.

Theme: Autumn 2 - Once Upon A Time

Our theme this half term - Once Upon A Time - This half term, we will explore traditional tales along with seasonal enhancements such as Bonfire Night and Christmas.

Our books this half term - Traditional Tales such as Three Little Pigs, Jack and the Beanstalk, The Enormous Turnip, Goldilocks, The Gingerbread Man and Little Red Hen.

Continuous Provision in the Early Years

Continuous provision covers the areas that are available to children most of the time.

Construction area-inside and out

Here children have a variety of large and small building toys such as large foam bricks, wooden blocks and Duplo. This area is always popular with some very creative and imaginative models and buildings being built. Teamwork is encouraged and naturally lots of interaction between peers occurs as well as some great language development. Clipboards and paper are often available, so children can draw their models. Half termly enhancements-encouraging children to build models of things they can identify in Traditional Tales such as the Three Little Pigs houses and bridges from Three Billy Goats Gruff.

Small World area

In this area children can use resources such as trains or farm animals to create their own games and role play. We also have our tree where the children can use the small world models to build stories into their play. Half termly enhancements-small world play around traditional tale characters such as animals and fantasy characters.

Home Corner/house outside

This is always a busy area where children act out experiences they have had or seen such as washing up, helping with the baking or laying the table for a meal, we even had 2 children doing the washing and the ironing! As with all areas of Early Years imagination, creativity and Communication and language are developed in this area. Half termly enhancements-making a Christmas tree and baking gingerbread men.

Sensory area

In this area children are provided with different materials or objects to explore. We also have a light table for children to use. Half termly enhancements-Seasonal sensory tray and mark making.

Water area

Children have access to a range of containers and tools to explore in the water tray. Here children can begin to understand capacity and the language of capacity such as full, half full and empty as well as making up their own imaginative games. Half termly enhancements- Making potions and small world figures from stories.

Dough table-please see staff if you would like the dough recipe that we use.

Dough is a great resource to help develop children's fine motor skills and hand strength to later support writing. This term we will continue weekly Dough Disco sessions to further develop co-ordination and the muscles in children's hands and arms. Half termly enhancements-themed dough mats to encourage

imagination and gingerbread scented playdough.

Creative table

In this area, the children are able to access painting and creative equipment. We also enjoy baking something delicious on this table every Monday morning which we then enjoy during fruit and milk time. Half termly enhancements-Making gingerbread, Christmas craft activities and creating wintery pictures.

Book area

Stories are read to children daily. In the book area children might choose to look at a book on their own or with a friend. Children are encouraged to hold a book correctly and begin to discuss books-characters, events, what might happen next. Half termly enhancements-traditional tales.

Writing area

A very popular area! Children have access to a variety of writing tools and equipment including clip boards, whiteboards, scissors, paper and glue, which is always in high demand! Half termly enhancements-Themed traditional tales paper, colouring pages and cutting skill sheets for story ordering.

Maths area

In Early Years we will focus on practical Maths activities with children encouraged when ready to record their maths work. Children are provided with a variety of resources for number, sorting, counting, practical addition and subtraction, measuring and shape activities. This half term we will explore number, learn about numbers that are familiar and explore ways of sorting, grouping and counting objects. We will order characters by size and use resources to compare heights. We will have fun making practical graphs exploring our favourite stories and characters from traditional tales.

Read Write Inc.- The phonics scheme we use in school is Read Write Inc. and all children will participate in activities. Children will work at different levels, learning the Read Write Inc Pictures, letter sounds, using the letter sounds in their writing, using their knowledge of sounds to read words and sentences.

How can you help?

- Ensure your child is in school on time and ready to learn-8:45 for Nursery, 8:50 for Reception.
- We always enjoy hearing about your child's achievements, big and small! Trying a new food, climbing to the top of the slide in the park, sleeping all night in their own bed. ...
- We will continue to use Tapestry as an on line learning journal. We love seeing observations from home and will be setting regular challenges for you to get involved with. We look at the observations from home with the children and share them with the class. Please keep up the good work!
- We have set up an Early Years Fund in order to provide your child with exciting opportunities. If you need any further information about this, please speak to a member of staff.

Class Reminders

Dates for the calendar

- 5th and 6th December is Family Christmas Lunch
- 9th December is Reception Nasal Flu Vaccinations 1-2.30pm
- 13th December is Early Years Christmas Day
- Week beginning 16th December are Christmas Parties (information to follow)

Please remember to provide suitable clothing for outdoor play such as wellies, hats, gloves and scarves.

If you have any questions please see any member of Early Years staff.

Miss Walker, Mrs Cowie, Mrs Thompson and Miss Casey