



# Spring 1

## Half Term Information for Parents

### Early Years

Happy children aiming high

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year! We hope you had a lovely Christmas break and are ready for a busy half term ahead! This information sheet tells you a little about our Early Years setting and about the theme being followed for this half term. We hope that you find it useful.

We would like to welcome a new member of staff to Early Years, Mrs Dixon.

Mrs Dixon will be working in both Nursery and Reception and is already enjoying getting to know the children.

**Theme:** Spring 1-People who help us

#### Continuous Provision in the Early Years

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

##### **Construction area**

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-building police stations, fire engines, buses

##### **Small World area**

In this area children can use resources such as trains or farm animals to create their own games and role play. Half termly enhancements-props to support imaginative play around emergency services, people who help us in the community, people who help us at school

##### **Home Corner**

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, the children love dressing the dolls and taking them for a walk!! As with all areas of Early Years imagination, creativity and Communication and language are developed in this area. Half termly enhancements-props to support role play around pancake day, Chinese New Year

##### **Sensory area/activities**

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- Mark making activities, explore noises made by emergency vehicles

##### **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- explore people who help us at sea-make own boats

##### **Dough table**

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. Props to support pancake Day, Chinese New Year

##### **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-non-fiction and fiction books about people who help us

### **Writing area**

A very popular area! Children have access to a variety of writing tools and equipment including clip boards, whiteboards and paper. Half termly enhancements-Chinese New year cards, writing, Valentines Day cards

### **Maths area**

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 continue to learn about shapes both 2D and 3D. Our counting skills are developing, and we will continue seeing how far we can count and which numbers we recognise and can record. When children are ready, they will take part in activities to find one more or less than a given a number and practical addition and subtraction activities which they will be encouraged to record. We will be exploring patterns and seeing if we can make our own.

**Read Write Inc-** All children will participate in Read Write Inc activities, the phonics scheme we use within school. 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.

**Our books this half term:** non fiction books about people who help us-emergency services, bus drivers, coast guard, postal service, refuse collectors, people who help us at school

**Our theme this half term-**People who help us-We will learn about who help us at school and in the wider community. We will have visits to school from different professions and roles that help us -if you can help us with this, please see Miss Walker.

As part of a whole school focus on Sustainability we will be exploring how we can help our planet.

### **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 are really enjoying the observations that you are putting onto Tapestry. We look at these with the children and share them with the class. Please keep up the good work!
- If you have any large boxes, please bring them into early years as they would be great for making fire engines and buses!

### **Class Reminders**

Please help us by naming clothing, particularly jumpers and coats.

We will be outside every day, so your child needs a warm coat.