



Autumn 1 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 an exciting year 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 1-Look at Me

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 their own houses, supporting team work and collaborative play.

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-small world play around experiences familiar to children such as the park, school, home.

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 using the phone to order a takeaway! As with all areas of Early Years imagination, creativity and Communication and language are developed in this area. Half termly enhancements-props to support holding a birthday party.

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-mark making sensory resources, exploring capacity with familiar resources.

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- supporting new children with aprons, tea pots, tea cups .

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. Making playdough faces.

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-family stories.

Writing area

A very popular area! Children have access to a variety of writing tools and equipment including clip boards, whiteboards and paper and glue which is always in high demand! Half termly enhancements-mini books, hand shaped paper, face shaped paper.

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 to use and explore ways of sorting, grouping and counting objects. We will compare the height of the children and other people in their families. Children will measure their hands and feet using different objects. We will have fun making practical graphs exploring our favourite foods, likes and dislikes.

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: My family, The Tiger who came to Tea, Monkey Puzzle, 5 minutes peace, Funny Bones, My House

Our theme this half term-Look at me-We will read books based on ourselves-fiction and non-fiction. We will all settle into new routines and get to know our new friends; explore how we are the same, different and that we are all unique. We will talk about our families and where we live and the things that we like and dislike.

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 are collecting junk modelling to help us build models of our houses. Please bring any donations in that you can.

Class Reminders

Please remember to name jumpers

If you have any questions please see any member of Early Years staff.
Miss Walker, Mrs Cowie, Miss Casey and Mrs Thompson