



## Explorers Newsletter Autumn 2022

Welcome to the Autumn term! We would like to give a special welcome to all of the new children who have started with us in September. The children have all settled well and are getting used to their new environment and routines.

This week we have started our new Mini Adventure 'We're Roaming in the Rainforest'. This adventure will take us into the Amazon Jungle and we will be finding out all about the animals and their habitat as well as looking into life in the rainforest. The Mini Adventure plans are attached to the email along with this letter. Please be aware that there is a separate plan for Nursery and Reception, so make sure you look at the appropriate one for your child. As always we will also incorporate the children's interests and leads for learning on a weekly basis too.

### Outdoor/Forest Based Learning

In Early Years we do not have set days for Outdoor & Forest Based Learning and each week we will be spending lots of time playing and learning outdoors. These activities will vary and take place in all weathers! Some of these activities can be wet and messy, but fun! Please can you ensure that your child has a named pair of wellies that can stay in school. The reception children also take part in whole school Forest Based Learning on a Friday afternoon and need to come to school dressed in their Pe kit (with joggers for warmth) as stated in the whole school letter at the beginning of term. The children have already been taking part in this and have named Y6 buddies.

### Water Bottles

Children in both Nursery and Reception need to come to school with a water bottle everyday. There are baskets for the children to put these in so that they can access them as and when needed. We are happy to refill bottles as required. As stated in our school policy the children are only allowed **water** in their bottles.

### Cooking/Baking

Throughout the Autumn term the children will take part in food preparation, cooking and baking. The children really enjoy this and covers many areas of learning and development. To help with the cost we are asking for a contribution of £5 per child towards ingredients. This can be sent into school (Explorers zone) in a named envelope.



## **Physical Development**

The children take part in physical activities on a daily basis. In addition to this the children also have a PE session on a Wednesday and Friday morning and the reception children also have a cricket session on a Thursday morning. The reception children will start to get changed for PE on the week beginning 2nd October and will need trainers for the cricket session on a Thursday morning. We do not recommend plimsolls or sand shoes as these are not suitable for running in and outdoor sessions. The children in reception are all in teams and need the correct colour t-shirt to the team they have been allocated. If you are unsure about which team your child is in please ask. If your child has a sibling in school they will automatically be allocated the same team. The nursery children **DO NOT** need a PE kit in school, they only take shoes and socks off for the hall sessions. The reception children are expected to dress and undress themselves. We will of course help with buttons etc. The children in nursery should be able to take their shoes and socks off and be able to put them back on. Please can you help us by helping your child by practising this at home if they are unable to do so. We will help in the early days, this is part of their learning in the Mini Adventure and your help is very much appreciated.

## **Clothing and Shoes**

Please can you ensure that **ALL** clothing items and shoes are named as we like to ensure any lost items are returned to their rightful owner! Please can we also ask that your child has a **coat** in school every day, especially as the Autumn weather is approaching. Can we also ask that your child wears shoes that they can take on and off themselves, no laces please.

We encourage all of the children to be independent when putting on and taking off their coat, we will help with zips/buttons etc. In school we do not use the coat on the floor method and lifting it over your head as this can cause injury to others, instead we recommend putting the hood on and then arms in from there. Hope that helps!

## **Reception Phonics Meeting & Reading Meeting**

There will be a phonics and reading information meeting for all reception parents on **Monday 17th October at 5pm**. During this session we will introduce you to our new Rocket Phonics scheme. We introduced this scheme in January 2022 and this is our first full academic year of using the scheme. We had great success with this last year. This phonics scheme is directly linked to the 'Rising Stars' reading scheme that we use. You will also be given information on helping your child learn to read as well as advice on the correct pronunciation of the phonic sounds.



## **Recording in Learning Journeys**

In September 2022 we started using the new Early Years Foundation Stage Statutory Guidance and Framework. One of the biggest changes in this is that settings are not required to keep an evidence profile of children's learning. Over the last year our introduction of this has been a gradual process. As a team we are now spending more quality time playing with and supporting your children in their learning rather than making written observations and taking photographs of what they are doing/learning. This means that your child will only have special wow and key moments recorded in their Learning Journey. We will still be recording lots of our learning in our 'Class Learning Journeys'. As a staff we have in-depth knowledge of your child and where they are developmentally across all areas of learning and this is recorded through our school tracking systems.

As a team, we are really looking forward to spending the time with your children as they journey through Nursery and Reception this year.

If you have any queries or questions please do not hesitate to contact us.

The Explorers Team

*Sophea Pounder, Joanne Murray and Jane White*