



EYFS Spring Term Newsletter

Happy New Year! We hope that you had a fun-filled holiday. We have been looking forward to welcoming you and your fantastic little ones back into our school community this term.

What a wonderful start to the New Year. This week, we welcomed three new pupils to our Pre-School and are ready to welcome two more next week. Our Nursery is proving more and more popular and is now almost full. If you have a little one turning three soon, please complete an application form as soon as possible to secure a place!

All of our new starters have settled well, are making new friends and have been very busy learning. Our older pupils have helped to welcome our new children and have been excellent role models in terms of behaviour and our class routines.

A reminder that if any of our nursery pupils are starting school this coming September, the closing date for online applications is midnight tomorrow (15th January, 2019).



The topics for the first half of this term will be 'Cold as ice' and 'New Beginnings'. We will soon be learning about Chinese New Year celebrations. The second half term we will be learning about 'Spring' and 'Easter Celebrations'. We will be exploring colours, sounds, textures, language, writing, feelings, movement, pattern, shapes and numbers through our play and led by the interests of the children.

For our new starters, the first few weeks of this term will be spent getting to know your VIP's a little better and learning what interests them. Finding out what they know and what they want to know will help us to continually tailor our provision to help them to enjoy their time in Pre-School and achieve their full potential. For our returning children, we will continue to provide a varied curriculum to extend their learning from last term and look at their 'next steps' of learning.

Forest School sessions with our outdoor specialists Neil and Veronica will continue this term (no matter what the weather!) so please ensure that you provide warm clothes including a hat and gloves, so that the children can explore the outdoor environment and how it changes. Please see the letter sent out last week to find out which session your child will take part in as their day may have changed from last term. Although Reception class will require their Forest School kit every Wednesday, at the moment, they will only be attending once a fortnight this term.



We will do our best to protect your children's clothing when they are painting etc. but please expect them to get dirty from time to time as they are learning through exploring!

We provide snacks each session where the children are free to eat a healthy snack and have a cup of milk or water. They also have free access to fresh water at all times. Should you choose to provide a water bottle, please ensure that it is clearly named. Please make us aware of any allergies your child may have. We do ask that parents donate £1 a week so that we can vary the choices available at snack times. Donations can be made to our staff at the door or posted in the post box in our entrance space. You can either pay weekly or termly.



Should your child require any medication whilst in our care, forms are available in our main office and must be completed by a parent to ensure that the medication is given correctly and safely.



Our Pre-School Book Worms Reading Library continues to be very popular. The children choose a story from our class collection and take it home to share with a parent/carer. The children have a reading record (just like our children in 'Big School') where parents can make a record of their reading experiences.

Reading Challenge - We would love to have some photographs of your children reading out of school to create a "We Love Reading" display – maybe capture reading in the house, the car, at the shops...the more unusual the better! Photographs can be emailed to: kingstreet@durhamlearning.net. Please ensure you use the word 'EYFS Reading' as your subject.

Reception children will continue to bring home their reading book, as well as letter formation sheets to practise and their word book to help practise blending together the sounds that they have been learning each week. Progress in EYFS can be rapid with support from home.

Our cloakroom area gets really busy so it would be really helpful to encourage your child to become a little more independent at the start of the session. For example, finding their own name peg and attempting to take off their coat and hang it up. We would be grateful if our older children are encouraged to wave goodbye at the classroom door and come into class independently. Please note that prams and pushchairs must be left outside. We do ask that Pre-School parents wait until all of our reception class are outside before coming to the door to collect their children at the end of the day.

To ensure the safety of our children, we need to be aware of who will be collecting your child if it's not their usual parent or carer. We know that emergencies do happen, but please let school know of any changes and provide a code word that staff can ask for before we allow your child to leave our building with another adult.

This term, PE sessions for Reception classes will take place on a Monday. Please ensure that children have their kit in school for a Monday morning. Pre-School are lucky to have a dance session on a Wednesday afternoon this term with a dance coach called Jasmine from Joanne Banks School of Dance.

Please ensure that all items of clothing are clearly labelled. Children are still learning to get ready after Forest School, PE and playtime sessions and occasionally things do get muddled or misplaced. We would also be grateful if you could check clothing at home and if your child has brought home the wrong jumper or hat, we can return them to their correct owners. We do have a lost property box from last term with several items in it, so if you are missing an item or two, please feel free to check when you drop your child off in the morning.

Finally, forming a good partnership between home and school is really important to us. We will be continually adding information and evidence on your child's development to their learning journals so please let us know of any proud moments that you have at home with your child and complete a form from our entrance space. Please remember that we are here for you and we want to help in any way we can. The early years of education are important as they lay the foundations for a lifetime of learning, so we want the experiences of school to be positive.

We really hope that your children are enjoying their time at King Street as much as we are enjoying welcoming those smiling faces each session!

Miss. Whitfield and the EYFS team

