



EYFS Spring Term Newsletter, 2020



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 week.

What a wonderful start to the New Year. This week, we welcomed three new pupils to our Pre-School as well as a new pupil to our Reception class. All of our new starters have settled well, are making new friends and have been very busy learning. Our pupils have helped to welcome our new children and have been excellent role models in terms of their behaviour and our class routines.

The theme for the first half of this term will be 'Cold as ice' and 'New Beginnings'. We will soon be exploring Chinese New Year. 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 play in our Learning Landscape. As well as our over-arching theme, we are led by the children's interests, so who knows where they will take us this term. We have already heard rumours that our EYFS garden has become 'Adventure Island' and it may have a family of fairies living there, but the Raven King is watching them, so we will keep you posted of any further information!



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.



We do offer a wide range of learning experiences and will do our best to protect your children's clothing when they are painting etc. but expect them to get dirty from time to time as they are learning through exploring!

Children have access to snack time throughout each session in our Garden Café area where the children can gather together to eat a healthy snack and have a cup of water. Should you choose to provide a water bottle, please ensure that it is clearly named. We sit together for milk and story time at the end of the session. Please make us aware of any allergies your child may have.

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 experiences. Our Home Links book also allows you to see what children are learning in class and can offer opportunities to enhance these opportunities at home. These books should be returned on a Monday so that we can let you know what the week ahead will bring!



Reception children will continue to bring home their reading book, as well as phonics 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.

Reading Challenge - We would love to have some photographs of your children reading out of school to create a "We Love Reading" display in our reading nook – 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. There will be prizes for the best ones, so get your thinking caps on!

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 particularly our Reception children are encouraged to wave goodbye at the cloakroom door and come into class independently. Please note that prams and pushchairs should be left outside.

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.

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 a large number of 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. Staff have spent the Autumn term getting to grips to our new online journal, **Tapestry**, and have started to add observations here, so we will be sending out information to parents soon on how to log-in and see what your child is up to. You will be able to add information and evidence on your child's development to their learning journals through the app, so please let us know of any proud moments that you have at home with your child as we would love to read them.



Please remember that we are here for you and we want to help and support families 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. Please feel free to discuss anything that may impact on your child with a member of staff in complete confidence and we will do our best to help to get any support that you might need.

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