



EYFS Summer Term 2019 Newsletter

We hope that you had a fun-filled Easter holiday and are now ready for what I can't believe is already the last term of this academic year. We have been looking forward to welcoming you and your amazing little ones back into our school community this week as well as some warmer, sunny weather!



What a wonderful start to the new term. This week, we welcomed our final new pupils to our Pre-School. All of our new starters are settling well, are making new friends and have been very busy learning. Our older pupils have once again helped to welcome our new children and have been excellent role models in terms of behaviour and our class routines.

Thank you to everyone who completed the light-bulb ideas sheets before the end of term. It was so lovely to read that your children really enjoy the activities we already offer throughout our provision. We have been working out how to cover as many of the wonderful ideas from the children as we can this term. If you haven't yet completed your sheet, please do so, there is plenty of time!



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 will be exploring colours, sounds, textures, stories, language, writing, feelings, movement, pattern, shapes and numbers through our play.



Forest School sessions with our outdoor specialists will continue this term, so please ensure that you provide clothes suitable for all weathers so that the children can explore the outdoor environment and how it changes. This should include long-sleeved t-shirts, sun hats and sun cream for any really sunny days! Please note that shorts are not appropriate for Forest School as children's legs need to be covered as our grasses can grow quite long and can irritate their skin.

Hopefully the sunny weather is around the corner, we will be sending out some information about sunscreen very soon!

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

We have a 'free-flow' snack each session where the children can access a healthy snack and have a cup of milk or water. Should you choose to provide a water bottle, please ensure that it is clearly named and taken home each night to wash and refill. 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 and will help us to pay for baking ingredients or enhancements to our learning. Donations can be made to our staff at the door or posted in the post box in our entrance space.

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.

Medication of any description must not be left in a child's school bag.



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. We do ask that these are returned regularly to get into a routine which will be expected as children move into school.

Reception children will continue to bring home their reading book, as well as phonics/handwriting practise sheets 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 contribute to 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: l.whitfield100@durhamlearning.net.



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 cloakroom door and come into the cloakroom independently. This will help our Reception children prepare for Year 1 where it is expected that children can do this independently from the start of term. Please note that prams and pushchairs must be left outside. We also ask that Reception parents leave the space beside the fence clear at the end of the school day so that we can get all of our pupils out safely, and leave a clear space for the Pre-School children to be brought to their parents.

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 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. We are always in need of spare clothes (including pants and socks) if you have anything that your children have outgrown.

A huge thank you to our volunteers for painting our new snack tables and chairs. They look amazing! We have some picnic tables that need a touch of paint, so please let us know if this is something you would be willing to help with. We are also looking for an outdoor guinea-pig hutch and run for Kev and Trev to enjoy the sunshine if anyone has one that they are willing to donate or could build one for us. If you would like to volunteer to work in class by listening to readers etc, please contact our school office, who will be willing to talk through it all with you.

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 or 'wow' 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

