

Fairfields Primary School

Autumn 2017 Letter to all parents with children in Foundation Stage

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Fairfields Primary School. We would like to share with you some of the intended learning for this term. We hope that you find this useful when visiting the library or working with your child at home.

In F.S., we base our teaching around the children's interests and encourage them to become independent learners. We do this through continuous provision, enhanced provision and directed activities. During this provision children are encouraged to explore a range of learning activities to enhance their development and move their learning on. To help children become independent learners we will set a star challenge every day. This will be a task that the children will be expected to complete on their own, such as, writing their name and ordering numbers.

We will share the children's learning with you through an online learning journal called Tapestry. Please see details below for a Tapestry workshop.

Children in Foundation Stage are lucky enough to be paired with a Year 6 buddy who will help them settle into school. We meet with our buddies throughout the year to do lots of fun activities e.g. walks around the local area, reading, re-telling stories.

Literacy

Children will be given the opportunity to engage in a variety of talk based activities. Talk is an important skill for the children to develop; if they can't say it, then they will not be able to write it. We will also be spending time increasing their knowledge of rhyme and rhythm through nursery rhymes, singing and stories.



We will be learning letter names and sounds, blending sounds together to make words and learning tricky words (learning words by sight). This will be taught through a new scheme which runs throughout key stage 1 called, 'Read, Write, Inc.' As well as this, children will have opportunities to mark make and write throughout the day, using a variety of media.

We recognise the importance of reading and will read aloud to the children every day and would encourage you to read to your child at home on a daily basis.

We will be sending home a reading book weekly from next week (week beginning 18.09.17). Your child will receive a book on the same day every week. From week 4 they will also have the opportunity to choose a library book for you to share with them at home. This does not have to be at your child's reading level.



Mathematics

In F.S., we have daily mathematics meetings and, during this time, F.S. will look at number formation, counting, the days of the week, months of the year and sing mathematics related songs. Alongside these, we will have teacher directed mathematics sessions where we will focus on a range of mathematical skills e.g. counting, addition, subtraction, shape names. We will be following the mathematics Abacus scheme along with the rest of the school. In time we will send home mathematics homework which will include a variety of games on the Abacus learning platform. Each child will receive a username and password and we will invite you into school to complete some examples of the games with your child nearer the time.

Celebrating learning

As celebration is one of our core values we encourage the children to celebrate their achievements. We have a 'Fab' board in FS2 which is an opportunity for you to celebrate your child's achievements outside of school e.g. riding a bike without stabilisers or writing a birthday card for a relative. Please note this special event on a piece of paper and feel free to share photographs of the event too. There will be a red 'Fab' box in FS1 where these can be posted. At the end of each day we choose six 'Best Workers' who have demonstrated good learning or one of our core values and celebrate their efforts. We also choose one child from each class who has worked hard all week to be our 'Star of the Week'.



Communication

To allow all children the opportunity to take part in all activities, we would be grateful if you could ensure that you have returned all the relevant forms to us, as soon as possible. If you need a copy of these please ask us or see the staff in the office. Also, please could you ensure that you register for Parentmail as we regularly communicate with you in this way. In order for activities to take place off the school site, it is essential that we have a sufficient number of adults to help us. So, if you are willing to help on any of our trips (however big or small) please make yourself known. All helpers have to complete the former CRB (Criminal Records Bureau), now DBS check, and this takes a little time, so the sooner you volunteer the better!

Soon, we will be sending home a 'communication book' with each child in their book bags. If you need to let us know any information, please write it in this book and books will be checked daily. We will also write in these books if something has happened at school that we need to inform you about, so please could you also check these daily.

How you can help your child at home.

To help your child to become more independent and to support your child's learning at school, you could do some of the following activities at home:-



- Practise getting changed for P.E. (physical education) and letting your child dress themselves, including putting on their own socks/tights and shoes in the morning
- Teach your child to put on their own coat and do it up by themselves
- Look out for colours and shapes around the house or when doing jobs like going to the supermarket
- Count stairs as you climb them together; notice and read numbers that you might see on houses and buses
- Read to your child every day
- Encourage your child to mark-make and draw; this helps them to find a comfortable pencil grip
- Help your child to learn to recognise their name and to copy it, if they are keen to write

Please can you ensure that your child has:

- ✓ a **named** water bottle in school
- ✓ a **named** waterproof coat, including a hood or hat, with them every day (as we do go out even if it is drizzling). They may also bring in **named** wellies in, too.
- ✓ a **named** book bag which they have decorated so that it is easily recognisable to them
- ✓ **named** school uniform, especially jumpers, cardigans, hats and gloves
- ✓ a **named** P.A bag containing; a **named** pair of shorts, a **named** t-shirt, a **named** pair of tracksuit bottoms, a **named** pair of socks, a **named** pair of plimsolls, a **named** jumper or tracksuit top. If your child wears earrings, please remove them on P.A. days and long hair should be tied back.
- X Please note children are not allowed to wear nail varnish or jewellery in school.

We would like to invite you to a year group meeting which will include information about our online learning journal, Tapestry, on Tuesday 26th September at 2.30pm.

Thank you very much.

Mrs Kelly Bogalski FS1 teacher

Mrs Jenny Moseley FS2 teacher