

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

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Nursery – Matisse - Autumn Newsletter

14th September 2017

Dear Parents and Carers

A very warm welcome to all the Nursery children and their families. Thank you for allowing us to visit your homes last week. Our home visits have been very enjoyable and useful. We hope that our visit will help your child settle quickly into Nursery.

Clothing

Could you please make sure that all of your child's clothes are named with a waterproof marker or name tape as it really helps to get them back to their rightful owner if they are lost. Please name shoes as these can sometimes get mixed up in Nursery! Please make sure that your child brings a coat every day so that they are able to go outside even if it is cold and damp.

PE

We will cover the physical aspects of the curriculum through our outdoor play and forest school activities. We have a fantastic outside garden area and The Wild Woods to take the children to. As the children get older and closer to moving on to the Reception Class we will review this and introduce them to the main school hall.

Snacks

All Nursery children receive free milk and fruit so there is no need to send in anything else for the morning. We also provide fresh water and cups which are available at all times. There is no need for children to have their own water bottles in Nursery.

Voluntary Contributions

We do ask for a voluntary contribution of £5 per term which helps to cover the cost of providing a range of different foods for special occasions, such as parties and festivals, playdough ingredients and cooking. Please send your money in a named envelope at the beginning of each term.

Book Bags

Children need to have these in school every day. If there are any letters to come home to you these will be put in their book bags, so please check them every day and remove letters and pieces of work the children have brought home for you.

Library Books

Your child will bring home a library book each week that they have chosen from our range of books at school. They are for you to enjoy and share with your child. These will be changed on different days depending on your child's group. Please take care of these books and make sure they are in your child's book bag each day.

Themes



Much of the teaching in the Foundation Stage follows the children's needs and interests. We will concentrate on settling in for the first few weeks and will then cover the topics 'All about me' and 'Autumn'. However, if the children's interests lie in other directions this may change!

Wild Wood Forest School sessions

In Nursery we will be having a Forest School session in our Wild Wood every Wednesday. The children will have the opportunity to explore and learn in our forest environment for the majority of the morning. We would love to have regular weekly parent helpers. Please see Mrs Gower if you love the outdoors and would like to be involved. On a Wednesday your child will need to come to Nursery in old clothes including a long sleeved top and long trousers (to protect from stinging nettles) and wellington boots. We will provide waterproof coveralls when the weather is wet. I will let you all know when this is going to begin once all the children have settled in.

You can help your child at home by:

- Encouraging them to recognise their own name written down.
- Encouraging mark making i.e. writing their own name, helping to write a shopping list etc. (Mark making may begin with writing lines and circles and this will then develop into forming letter shapes and then actual letters).
- Reading stories every day and talking about these stories, including the title, characters etc.
- Point out words that rhyme in stories.
- Encouraging them to recognise letters in the alphabet and say the sounds (rather than the letter names), i.e. a a a apple rather than saying A.
- Counting objects to 10 and beyond, pointing to each as they count.
- Recognising and naming basic 2D shapes
- Singing number songs and rhymes i.e. 5 currant buns, 5 little speckled frogs, 1,2,3,4,5 Once I caught a fish alive, 5 little ducks, 10 in the bed.
- Encouraging your child to put his/her own shoes and coat on and to do zips, buttons and Velcro up.

Learning Journals – We will be recording each child's learning and attainment using a program called '2Build a Profile' created by '2Simple'. We will be using iPad's to capture and record children's learning and the program will enable us to email this information to parents and also allow parents to respond to the observations. Parents will receive emails with their Child's observations on a termly basis.

Collecting Your Child

Young children can feel worried if they are left when all their friends go home so please be prompt when delivering and collecting your child from Nursery. Also, if you are unable to collect them personally please make sure that you have informed the school office who will be collecting your child at the end of the session.

Finally, if you have any concerns or wish to ask us any questions about your child's time at Nursery please do not hesitate to contact us or speak to us in Nursery. If you need to get a message to us before school starts in the morning please fill in a pink slip at the office and the message will be passed on to us.

We look forward to working with you and your child,

Kind Regards

Mrs Gower, Mrs Wallman and Mrs Williamson.