

Welcome to our first newsletter of the year. We hope that your child has started to feel settled and part of the Herne View community. We have been absolutely amazed by how well the children have been coming into school and how they are beginning to settle into the new routines. We are so very proud of them all. This newsletter is to share with you some of the things that we hope will be going on during the next term. Sometimes we do go 'off plan' depending on the children's interests. Our main focus is settling the children and ensuring they are happy in their new environment.

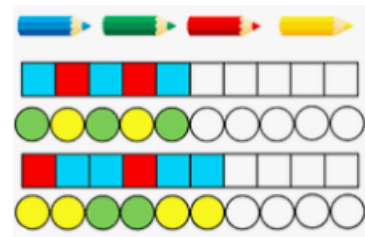
Literacy:

To begin with we are focussing on nursery rhymes. We will also be playing lots of rhyming and listening games to help children develop their listening skills. We will look at the story 'What Makes Me a Me?' and discuss what makes us special.



Mathematical development:

As well as moving the children forward in number skills, we will have a focus on 2D shape and sorting, patterns, size, position and time.



Personal Social and Emotional Development:

We will spend lots of time getting to know each other, making new friends and getting used to all of the new routines of school. We will also help to make up some class rules.



Understanding The World and Expressive Arts and Design:

We will take our lead from the children's interests but we have some themes we may explore such as Diwali and Autumn. We also hope to explore the forest school area and to use the outdoor classroom. We have already started creating our self-portraits and will soon complete some family portraits.



RE:

Although we will start the term thinking about the Harvest Festival our main theme for this term is 'Incarnation' which will lead up to Christmas.



Physical Development:

We will start PE once all children are in full time. All Reception classes have PE on Tuesdays. They will need to come into school in their PE kit every Tuesday from **Tuesday 27th September.**



Phonics: In our phonics lessons we will be learning all of the single letter sounds and using these to spell and read simple words. Later on in the term we will start to learn that some sounds need more than one letter to represent them (digraphs). We will be holding a meeting about how we teach phonics the date will follow shortly.



Reading: Children will not be bringing home reading books straight away, but will definitely do so once we have learnt the first set of sounds and practised our blending. We will send more information about this once we are ready to send books home. Again we will talk more about this in our phonics meeting.

You can help at home by

- *Gross motor skills: playing throwing and catching games, going to the park, running, climbing etc. This will all support children in developing the strength they need in their shoulders and arms to hold a pencil and sit and write.
- *Fine motor skills: Playing with Lego/playdough, threading. Physical development is so important for so many areas of child development but in particular in writing and concentration. Children need to develop both the strength in their shoulders and hands before they are able to successfully hold a pencil and write.
- *Encouraging your child to be independent when using the toilet, this includes being able to wipe their own bottom.
 - * Noticing numbers all around you, at the shops, around the house, on walks etc.
 - * Counting everyday objects, dinner plates, toys, sticks, stones.....whatever your child is in to.
- * Talking with your child about their day. We hope that our sharing letters might help if your child struggles to remember their busy day.
- *Sharing books and stories regularly, discussing the pictures and text and modelling 'book behaviours' such as handling them carefully, turning pages carefully etc

The problem we had with Tapestry is now resolved so everyone should be able to access it. If you haven't already returned your Tapestry consent form please do so ASAP. If you have returned your form and not yet activated your account please check both your inbox and junk email box (we are aware Tapestry emails sometimes end up there). More activation emails will be going out over the next couple of days. We have started to add sharing letters and knowledge organisers to Tapestry and hope that you will enjoy being able to share your child's learning with them. Thanks for adding your own observations, please continue to do this so that we can share in both the learning at school and at home.

Dates for your diary:

- If your child is entering the Children's Carnival Umbrella competition, judging will take place in school on Friday 23rd September. Further information can be found in the school newsletter.
- We look forward to seeing those of you who can make it to the Harvest Festival on 13th October at 2:30 in The Minster.

Please if you have any other queries or concerns about anything at all; feel free to come and see us to discuss them.

The Foundation Stage Team