

Firstly, we would like to say that we are thoroughly enjoying getting to know your children and we are really impressed with how well they are settling in to Reception. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support in helping make your child's transition into full time school life a happy and positive experience.

The topic for this term is 'All about Me'. We will explore the following topics through all areas of the curriculum: About me, Family, Birthdays, My special things, My home.

Since starting school the children have been getting to know the different areas of the classroom, including the 'home corner' (the current theme for our role play area), the outside area, play dough, threading, Lego, the trim trail on the playground and getting to know new peers and adults. They have been exploring moving in different ways in PE and have been enthusiastic participants in 'Wake and Shake' in the morning when they join in with dance routines to music to help wake them up and prepare them for the day ahead.

During 'Communication and Language' and 'Literacy', the children have been listening to stories about starting school. These stories have led to discussion where the children have been encouraged to share their opinions about how they feel and the things that they enjoy in and out of school. Through child initiated activities and group work, they have also had a go at writing their names and mark making. For example, writing a label for a model they have made or a picture they have drawn. For Mathematics, the children have enjoyed singing number rhymes including counting using their fingers. We have also been practising counting objects by moving them and recognising and ordering numbers.

The children demonstrated excitement, as well as maturity about having their first lunch at school and all staff were impressed with their sensible behaviour (particularly when carrying their food on trays back to their tables ☐) and good eating habits in the school hall. We were very proud of them.

Dates for your diary:

- **Wednesday 19th October: 9.15am: Nursery Rhyme Challenge and then Macmillan Coffee Morning**
Come to the main hall to watch the children sing and perform nursery rhymes they have been practicing in class! Reception children will be joined by our Nursery children. A letter detailing the songs that will be sung will be sent home, please support your child by practising these with them at home. Afterwards there is a new parents coffee morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support. Invitations to follow so keep an eye out in book bags. If you are able to donate any cakes or raffle prizes for this event they would be gratefully received.
- **Supporting your child's learning** at home is essential to their progress and development. This week, we have started sending home books the children have chosen for you to share, as just ten minutes of sharing a book everyday makes a huge difference. For further support and ideas of how to help at home, please come to the workshops....
 - Wednesday 28th September, 9.10am in the Main hall-** Dough Gym and Funky Fingers (how to develop an effective pencil grip)
 - Wednesday 5th October, 9.10am in the Main hall -** Jolly Phonics and Handwriting
 - Wednesday 12th October, 9.10am in the Main hall -** How to help with number work

-TERM 2 Wednesday 16th November, 9.10am in the Main hall - Reading Together (this will include an opportunity to look at your child's Learning Diary.)

-Wednesday 23rd November, 9.10am in the Main hall - Characteristics of Effective Learners

- **Friday 14th October- Walk to School Breakfast**
- **Friday 21st October - End of term 1**
- **Monday 31st October - Start of term 2**

Other information/ Reminders:

• **Show and Tell:**

Please encourage your child not to bring any toys from home in to school on a daily basis as it causes upset if someone else wants to play with it or it goes missing. Alternatively, we will be starting 'Show and Tell' days every Friday. The first session of Show and Tell will be on Friday 30th September; we will send information about days and groupings for this in the children's book bags shortly and will display a timetable on the classroom window. Show and Tell is an opportunity for children to talk to the class and answer questions from other children about something that is special to them. For example, they can bring in a topic related item, something they have done at home or a special object. Please encourage your child to talk to you about their object at home before bringing it to school e.g. Why is it special? What can it do? Who gave it to them?

- **Wow Wall!**- In class we have a 'Wow Wall' which we hope will soon have the children's work / pictures/ certificates up on it that the children have achieved outside of school. We will also provide 'wow cards' for parents/ carers to complete when they are particularly proud of any achievement their child has made from outside of school. For example, getting dressed independently or sharing a caring attitude etc. These achievements are shared and celebrated with the class before going up on the wall for everyone to see. Please encourage your child to bring in anything they are particularly proud of.
- **Photos-** The local 'Obsever' newspaper visit primary schools at the start of the year to take a photo of the children in their first year of school. The children of Atlantis and Apollo will be photographed, so please return your consent forms for photos to the office asap and inform the office if you would prefer your child not to be included in this photo. Once we know the date the photo will appear in the paper we will put it on the parents notice board (on the window of Reception).
- **Some reminders for the start of the year:**
 - Please encourage your child to bring in their book bag every day to go in their drawer.
 - Please name everything, including water bottles and shoes to avoid confusion.
 - Being a healthy school, we encourage you to please fill your child's water bottle with water only and not juice/ squash.
 - Lastly, if you have any empty cereal boxes, clean bottles etc, we would be very grateful if we could have them for the children so they can carry out child initiated junk modelling. Thank you!
- The children have already been lining up smartly after play on the playground- they are so grown up! We will start lining up every morning from **Tuesday 20th September**, just like the rest of the school. Our line is the yellow line at the end of the slope. Ask your child, they know where it is!

We have had a very busy and fun start to school!
Thank you for your continued support,
Miss Hewson and Mrs Welsh

