



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the Early Years foundation stage! We hope you and your children had a fantastic summer and are ready for a busy and exciting term!! We are really looking forward to getting to know you all.

THE EARLY YEARS CURRICULUM



In Early Years, many of our themes and activities will be taken from the children's interests. In the first few weeks your child will have the opportunity to settle into their new learning environment, learning the routines and expectations and getting to know the adults who are working alongside them. Each day, children are exposed to an exciting and varied timetable, which has a careful balance between children exploring and learning independently through play (ChIL Time), and focused activities planned and led by adults. All activities that take place are centered around the children's interests and adults work together to plan accordingly. Throughout the term, we will also be spending some time looking at the changes that occur during Autumn, Harvest, Bonfire Night, Diwali, Hanukkah and the exciting events leading up to Christmas.

COVID -19

To help keep everybody safe we ask that you adhere to the following guidelines

- Only **ONE** parent may pick up or drop off. We also ask that you swiftly leave the school premises to avoid lots of people gathering at exit points.
- Please **DO NOT** let your child play on the climbing equipment whilst waiting to go into their classroom.
- We ask that no toys from home are brought into the school. If your child is keen for us to see a special toy then you are able to upload this onto Tapestry which we can then share.
- If your child has any of the following symptoms then please **DO NOT** send them into school. If your child develops any of the following symptoms whilst at school you will need to collect them promptly.
 - **High temperature (37.8 deg C or higher)**
 - **A new continuous cough**
 - **A loss of, or change, in their normal sense of taste or smell**



LEARNING JOURNEYS

Throughout your child's time in Early Years we will be creating an electronic 'Learning Journey' – which evidences your child's experiences and achievements throughout the year. This will be done through Tapestry.

The learning journeys will be available for you to access from home, please let the office know if you have any difficulties accessing this learning platform. Within their learning journeys, we like to include special moments and achievements that happen outside of school and you will be able to input these directly to your child's learning journey from home. For example, a significant event, the day their first tooth fell out, how they built a tall lego tower, learning to ride their bike etc.

FOREST SCHOOL

In Early Years, we have a Forest School session once a week. Forest School provides an excellent chance for the children to explore and experience learning in a different environment. We will go outside in **ALL** weathers including rain, sleet, snow, therefore, your child needs to have appropriate clothing to be kept at school at all times. Long sleeves and trousers **MUST** be worn. Children will also wear their wellies and waterproof trousers and if needed, their coats.





NOTICES and CORRESPONDENCE

Notices will be placed on the window where the children are dropped off and collected. Please keep a check on these as there will be copies of letters that have been sent out and any other information we have to give you. If your child is going to be absent from school for any reason please phone or email admin to let them know, this also applies if they need to be collected early from school or if they are being collected by someone different.



DRINKS AND SNACK TIME

For snack, we are provided with fruit and vegetables from a government scheme with a drink of milk or water.

LUNCHTIME

At lunchtime, teachers take the children to the lunch hall where they are supported by mid-day Supervisors. While some children are still settling, class teachers will remain with them for reassurance. Please be mindful about how much food your child has in their lunch box as we want them to have time to have a break outside. Just a reminder we are a healthy eating school and a NO NUTS Zone! Thank you for your support in this matter.



MEET THE TEACHER AND READING INFORMATION FOR PARENTS AND CARERS



As we are unable to have face to face meetings this year we will be providing key information about the year ahead, expectations and how to support your child's learning at home via a link on the school website. Any questions you may have please email to the school office and they will be passed onto your child's teacher.

THE COLOUR MONSTER

Our first topic will be based around the story 'The Colour Monster' by Anna Llenas which encourages children to develop an understanding of different emotions. It is based on a monster whose colours are all mixed up. These colours represent his emotions and to begin with he is feeling confused. A little girl helps the monster to sort out all of the different colours and to identify how each colour makes him feel. We hope that this story helps your child to identify their own emotions and begin to understand the emotions of those around them. At the end of the topic we will be putting a presentation on the school website for you to see all of the wonderful activities which we have been doing.



REMINDERS

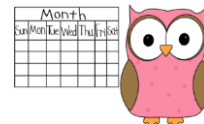
- Please ensure all uniform and spare clothing are clearly named (if it comes off, it needs a name!)
- If your child is being collected by a different person from the usual arrangements, please ensure you let your child's class teacher know via the office.
- Please ensure your child has wellies and waterproof trousers and coats in school for Forest School

Finally, the most important thing is that your child is happy at school and has fun while they are learning. Please do not hesitate to come and see us if you have any concerns.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Bugg, Miss Woodhouse and Miss Webster

Dates for your diary!



- Week commencing 14th September - 'Meet the Teacher information available on the school website.

- Week commencing 19th October - 'The Colour Monster' end of topic presentation available on the school website <https://www.summercroft.herts.sch.uk/>

How to help your child at home:

- Reading a variety of books to your child.
- Retelling familiar stories in their own words or using the pictures in a book. Can they change the ending?
- Retelling familiar stories in their own words or using the pictures in a book.
- Rhyming games
- Hiding alphabet/numbers around the house.
- Practising oral blending in games such as 'I Spy' (I spy a.. c-a-t/z-i-p).
- Hiding phonemes/words/alphabet/numbers around the house.
- Counting to 10 forwards and backwards and finding one more or one less to 10.
- Singing number rhymes such as Five Currant Buns, Five Little Men in a Flying Saucer, Ten Green Bottles.
- Tracing their name/letters/numbers in a variety of materials e.g. bubbles, sugar, mud, shaving foam, cornflour and water.
- Cutting and sticking pictures from magazines and newspapers to make their own picture.
- Cooking
- Gardening and growing

Useful Websites

www.oxfordowl.co.uk

www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies

<http://www.letters-and-sounds.com>

<http://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/freelIndex.htm>

<http://www.teachyourmonstertoread.com>

<http://www.crickweb.co.uk/Early-Years.html>

Useful Apps

Hairy letters

Number Line

Tap A Tune

abc PocketPhonics

Ladybird Maths

Bee-Bot

Phonics Lilies

Hungry Fish

Monster Hunt (Memory game)

Forest Phonics

Math, Age 3-5 and Age 4-6