



**COBHAM**  
Primary School



# Year R Newsletter

Dear Parents,

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome you and your child to Cobham Primary School. Thank you so much to every one of you for inviting us into your home, we thoroughly enjoyed the home visits and gained lots from it - we hope you did too. The children have already settled well this week and have been quick to learn new routines and expectations.

The Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum is firmly based on the children gaining practical experiences to develop in each area of learning. Play is an important part of a child's learning process and creates positive attitudes towards learning. Because of this, in Year R we keep activities as practical as possible, encouraging pupils to learn through all of their senses. They will participate in two child initiated sessions a day in which they will be encouraged to plan what they would like to do, then review what they have done, giving the children a sense of independence and ownership of their learning experiences.

This term our topic will initially be 'All about me and my family'. We will be learning about similarities and differences between ourselves, our friends and our families.

As we move through the term we will be using some familiar stories to base our learning both inside and outdoors.

## **Personal, Social and Emotional Development**

For this term the main focus for all of the children will be settling into school routines and building relationships. We encourage the children to be as independent as possible, choosing activities and resources themselves and dressing independently; this could be continued at home by encouraging your child to dress themselves in the morning and to learn to put on and do up their coat. Pupils will generally find friends and build relationships independently; we also promote this through circle time and social games.

## **Communication and Language**

We encourage the children in reception to share their ideas and what they have done each day. Speaking and listening is an integral part of every child's development and we encourage this through circle time, games and paired work. The children's listening skills progress immensely in this first term, they will begin to sit on the carpet in whole class learning and story time, as well listening to their new friends and routine. We encourage the children to ask the adults in the room if they are unsure of something.

## **Physical development**

We provide many opportunities to enhance your child's physical development. Many of the resources in the classroom and outdoor area will help develop your child's fine and gross motor skills. You can continue this at home by encouraging your child to take part in art activities, cutting, play dough etc and to participate in plenty of physical activity. Soon we will begin to go to the hall for BEAM sessions to develop the children's gross motor skills.

## **Literacy**

**The importance of getting children off to a good start with reading and writing cannot be overstated.** The more words children know and understand before they start on phonics, the more they will succeed. This is why we begin the year by engaging the children in enjoyable activities that will help develop the children's speaking and listening skills, encouraging the children to tune into, identify, repeat and discuss sounds, such as those made by musical instruments and in our environment. Playing a variety of games that encourage speaking and listening is the best way to help develop this at home. Once we begin school full time the children should be ready to begin learning grapheme/phoneme correspondences. The emphasis on speaking and listening and then phonics will give your child the strategies they need to later begin reading and writing confidently. When reading, at this stage, emphasis should be made on story content to enhance your child's comprehension of a book; this is done most effectively by discussing the pictures with your child, re-capping on the story and asking questions.

## **Mathematics**

When children first come to school they often have a sound understanding of being able to count aloud or by rote. We will extend their understanding of number and using numbers through games and practical experiences. You can also do this at home by counting objects, identifying numbers and playing board games. In this term we will be focusing on recognising numerals 1 to 10 and counting out objects accurately.

## **Understanding the World**

This term the children will be exploring the environment. We will encourage them to look closely at similarities and differences and patterns of change. We will be carrying out an autumn walk to look at the environment around us.

## **Expressive Arts and Design**

This involves all creative areas. We encourage to children to do plenty of artistic activities using a range of materials, including painting, cutting and sticking and modelling. We sing lots of songs through the day and use percussion instruments in both teacher directed and child initiated sessions.

## **PE Kits**

The children do not need PE kits until after October half term. In term 1 we will begin to take part in weekly BEAM sessions where we will be taking our shoes and socks off only. BEAM is a program to develop the children's gross motor skills to get them ready to write.

## **Forest School**

In term 3 we will be starting to go to Forest School, the children will need old clothing, wellingtons, a waterproof coat and waterproof trousers for this - more information to follow soon.

## **Wellingtons**

So that your child gets the most from their outdoor learning, please could we ask you to provide a pair of named wellingtons which can stay in school; these can come into school from week commencing 16<sup>th</sup> September.

## **Water Bottles**

Please ensure your child has a water bottle every day. Could we ask that these are not put in their school bags in case they leak- thank you.

### **Reading & Reading Record Books**

We will be listening to the children read throughout the year, it is therefore crucial that they have their reading book and reading record book in school every day.

We want the children to grow a love for reading and therefore we encourage the children to read 5 times per week at home (the 2 books we send home at least once and then 3 other shared stories). Please use just one page per week, even if you read more than 5 times this does not need to be recorded, we will check for 5 times reading every Friday, starting 13<sup>th</sup> September.

We will change reading books twice per week; on a Tuesday and Friday. Unfortunately if the book and reading record are not in school we are not able to change them.

### **Coats**

Please ensure your child has a named coat/waterproof in school every day - thank you.

### **Picking up/Dropping off**

**If your child is currently attending the morning session please could we ask you to arrive via the back car park gate. A member of the team will come out and open the gate at 11:15am to let you in.**

**If you are currently the afternoon session please use the staff car park gate to drop off, a member of staff will come out to let you in at 1pm.**

### **Key Dates for Reception**

**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> September - Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September** - half of the children in the morning (8:45am - 11:15am), half in the afternoon (1:00pm - 3:15pm).

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September - Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September** - All children start 8:45am, stay for lunch and finish at 1:15pm. Please use the back car park gate when collecting your child at 1:15pm.

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September @ 11:45pm** - Family Picnic followed by a brief parent meeting (please bring lunch with you, if you are unable to attend please provide a packed lunch for your child)

**Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> September** - All children full time, 8:45am - 3:15pm.

**Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October** - Kent Messenger to take class photo

**Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> October** - Reception Autumn Walk - All children will need wellingtons and a waterproof coat.

**Monday 14<sup>th</sup> October** - 2pm Stay & Play for parents - more information to follow. 2:45pm Phonic workshop for parents - I will also be around after to discuss any concerns or worries you may have.

**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> October** - Parents' Evening 1:30pm - 6pm

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October** - End of Term 1

**Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October** - Back to school

I hope the booklets sent home in July and this email has answered any questions you may have, if you do have any others please do not hesitate to come and see me.

We have such an exciting year ahead of us and we look forward to working with you.

Many Thanks

Mrs Dengate, Mrs Usher, Miss Le Pavoux & Miss Styles