

William Fletcher School
Foundation Class Robins and Wrens – Autumn Newsletter

‘Where everyone counts’

11th September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the Foundation Stage Class at William Fletcher School. We will be working together to create a caring, fun and educational environment for your children. It is lovely to see the children arrive in their smart uniforms ready to spend a day in school. Initially we will be supporting the children as they settle into new routines, making new friends and we will carry out initial assessments. The children have now been organised into two registration classes, ‘Robin Class’ with Miss Coulson and ‘Wren Class’ with Mrs Haynes. Both classes will be supported by our class Teaching Assistants Mrs Weeks and Mrs Janssen.

Early Years Curriculum

The children’s learning will embrace the seven areas as outlined in the EYFS (Early Years Foundation Stage – ‘Development Matters’). There are three ‘Prime’ areas: PSED (Personal, Social and Emotional Development), C & L (Communication and Language), and Physical Development. These areas underpin four ‘Specific’ areas which are Mathematics, Understanding The World, Literacy (Reading and Writing), and Expressive Arts and Design. At this stage of the year, and in light of the recent pandemic, there will be a great emphasis on the first area of learning PSED, laying down classroom/school rules, setting up routines, understanding expectations of acceptable behaviour, turn taking, sharing, learning to respect others, politeness and manners, encouraging independence and making the correct choices. The children will begin to understand that positive attitudes and learning will earn them a sticker or a place on the special ‘Gold Cloud’! It is very helpful to us when this is reinforced by parents outside school.

Term 1 Topic ‘Marvellous Me!’

Our learning this term will be based around the theme of ‘Ourselves’. We will talk about our home, family and interests. We will focus on discussing our feelings and how we can learn to manage them. The topic will be reflected through all seven Areas of Learning in the Foundation Stage Curriculum. Our weekly planning will also be influenced by the children’s individual interests through daily observations as well as adult initiated activities.

Later in the term we will be learning about ‘Autumn / Harvest’ and we will be looking at seasonal changes around us.

Reading

In your child’s book bag you will find a **yellow diary** and 3 picture story cards. These are to encourage discussion about stories, think about settings, characters, feelings and predicting outcomes. Please make comments about your children’s responses and what you discussed using the story card in the yellow diary. If you read extra stories or bedtime stories you can record them in the diary too. This can then give staff a point of discussion with the children.

****During these first few weeks we are going to send 3 story cards home which we would like you to work through Thursday to Tuesday (you can repeat story cards). We can then quarantine the story cards and issue a new set. Please bear with us while we navigate this new system. You can send the book bag, yellow diary and sounds book into school every day and we can hang it on your child's peg.****

We are currently carrying out letter sound assessments. The children will have a **sounds book** to in their bag today based on 'Jolly Phonics' (a Multi-sensory way to learn letter sounds). As the phonics groups get up and running we will be gradually introducing reading books for you to share with your child at home.

We will be using the 'Jolly Phonics' multi-sensory sound/action/pictures approach, to practise letter sounds in class as well as working in small phonics groups. When children have phonic knowledge they can move on to acquiring a sight vocabulary and begin to segment and blend letters to read words by themselves. This knowledge of letters and sounds in reading will support the children's attempts at early independent writing.

We will soon be putting plastic zip wallets into book bags containing letters to practise specific sounds and blending words at home. Please concentrate on the letter sound rather than the letter name i.e. 'a' for apple. In their book bag your child will have a reading record book (yellow diary). Please can you support us by acknowledging **each** time your child reads at home by writing in the 'Reading Diary' the date, the name of the book and any comments about how your child read and if they enjoyed reading the book. Book bags need to be brought into school every day.

Handwriting / Pencil Grip

Once children are settled we will begin working hard on encouraging children to hold their writing implements correctly in a tripod grip and forming letters and numerals starting in the right place and following the correct sequence of movements. We will be giving out further information on letter formation further into the term. When writing and colouring at home, please encourage children to hold their pencils correctly using small hand movements and try to choose appropriate colours for a task. Children attempting to write their name should be encouraged only to use a capital letter for the start of their name, the remainder being lower case.

Toys from home

Please refrain from bringing in toys from home as this causes distress should they get lost or broken. Due to government guidelines we are not currently allowed to house toys so these should be kept at home.

Colder Weather

Although we are enjoying some reasonable weather, please ensure children have suitable warm clothing for outdoor play as the weather turns colder. The children will play on all surfaces and will need to wear wellingtons when it is wet or when playing in the mud kitchen. It is helpful if children can keep a pair of named wellingtons in school permanently. Please send these in with your child in a named bag and we will put them on your child's peg.

Name Labels

A reminder to please check that **all** your child's clothing and bags are named including PE kit, lunchboxes and water bottles. Please remember to name hats, gloves and scarves too as it gets colder.

PE Kit

P.E. kit is required to be worn **TO** school on PE days. Our PE day will be Fridays. Children wear their PE clothes to school, keep it on all day and return home in it. Children need to wear a plain white T-shirt, black or navy shorts/joggers, socks and trainers. Our first PE day will be Friday 18th September.

It would be helpful to have spare underwear and clothing for any toileting accidents in a spare bag. Please send this in with your child and we will keep it in school on their peg.

Water bottles

The children all have a drink of milk or water during snack time and have water to drink with their lunchtime meal. They are welcome to help themselves to water from their own bottle during the day. Please ensure bottles are named.

School Dinners

We are pleased to say the children are coping really well going to the hall for lunch. They are adjusting well with the new routine in the hall. Please remember that we are a no nuts school. This protects children/adults with allergies.

Snack time

We will now be providing your child with a fruit/vegetable snack so you no longer need to send in a separate snack.

'Little Star Award'

If your child has done something at home that you are particularly proud of we would like to share their achievement at school too. Examples may be learning to ride their bicycle on two wheels, achieving an award/certificate in an out of school club/activity or achieving a distance in their swimming lessons. We have included some little star awards in your parent pack, alongside this letter. Please fill one in and we will share their successes with the class. These awards will be included in the children's 'Special Learning Journey' Books. Please ask if you need more little star awards.

Safeguarding / Passwords / Contact telephone numbers

We appreciate that there will be occasions when other people will be collecting your child after school, both on a regular basis and as a one off. Please can you fill in their names and the password that they will be using and return this to us. This page is attached in your pack.

Email addresses

In Foundation Stage we use an electronic tracking tool called 'Evidence Me' to gather evidence of not only what children are learning as well as the ways in which they are learning, known as the 'Characteristics of Learning'. We take photographs which are annotated and record the objectives being met as well as these 'characteristics'. We may also add the 'Next Steps' to be followed in a child's learning.

Parents and carers will be able to access these throughout the year by giving us an email address. You will also be able to add interests, achievements and activities from home by uploading them and adding to the child's profile. More details to follow!

Please can you submit an email address on the sheet provided so that we can send the 'invitation' to send portfolio's to you. Once this has been accepted you can view your child's learning.

Arrivals and departures

The children are doing a great job of saying goodbye at the door and entering the classroom in the morning. Our start/finish times remain as follows:

- For children WITHOUT siblings in school 9.15-2.30pm
- Children WITH siblings in school - Drop and collect at the eldest siblings times.

We hope you find this information useful. Please do not hesitate to ask for further clarification. At this stage, contact is best through email so please contact us through the school office: office.2354@william-fletcher.oxon.sch.uk

With Kind Regards

Hannah Haynes, Emma Coulson, Karen Weeks and Sandra Janssen.

Foundation Stage Team

Checklist:

- Share yellow diary and story cards with your child. Return to school on Tuesdays
- Start looking through 'Jolly Phonics' letter sounds booklet - children can colour the pictures in here!
- Check clothes are labelled
- Send Wellies in
- Send snack each day and drinks bottle
- PE day is FRIDAY. Wear PE kit to school
- Send a little star award in when your child achieves at home!

Send back to school:

- Telephone contacts and password form
- Evidence me email address