

William Fletcher School
Foundation Class Wrens – Autumn Newsletter

‘Where everyone counts’

11th September 2023

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. We will be supporting the children as they settle into new routines, make new friends and we will carry out initial assessments. The children will be taught in Wrens Class by Mrs Haynes. The class will be supported by our class Teaching Assistants Mrs Weeks and Mrs Rada.

Early Years Curriculum

The children’s learning embeds the seven areas as outlined in the Early Years Foundation Stage.

PSED (Personal, Social and Emotional Development)

C & L (Communication and Language)

PD (Physical Development).

Mathematics

Understanding The World

Literacy (Reading and Writing)

Expressive Arts and Design

At this stage of the year there will be a greater emphasis on PSED and Communication and Language, establishing classroom rules, setting up routines, understanding expectations of acceptable behaviour, turn taking, sharing, learning to respect others, politeness and manners, encouraging independence and learning to make the correct choices.

Term 1 Topic ‘Marvellous Me!’

Our learning this term will be based around the theme of ourselves, our relationships (family and friends) and people who help us (occupations and people in the community). We will talk about our home, family and interests. We will focus on discussing our feelings and how we can learn to manage them. Our weekly planning will be influenced by the children’s individual interests through daily observations as well as adult initiated activities linked to the Early Years Framework.

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

Reading

In your child’s book bag you will find a **yellow reading diary** and 3 picture story cards. These are used 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.

We are going to send 3 story cards home **every Friday** which we would like you to work through during the week. We will issue new story cards the following Friday. As we begin to teach phonics, we will then start issuing 'phonics reader' reading books. **Please send your child's book bag and yellow diary into school every day.** Please can you support us by acknowledging *each* time your child shares a story card/reads at home by writing in the Reading Diary the date, the name of the card/book and any comments about how your child responded and if they enjoyed reading the book.

We teach Phonics using the scheme 'Essential Letters and Sounds'. We start by assessing the children's knowledge of sounds and then begin a series of short teaching sessions. Once the term gets going we will be hosting a parents 'phonics and reading' evening where you can come along and learn about the best ways to support your child's phonics and reading at home.

Handwriting / Pencil Grip

Once children are settled, we will begin working hard to encourage 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.

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 wellington boots when it is wet or when playing in the mud kitchen. It is helpful if children can keep a pair of named wellington boots in school permanently. Please send these in with your child in a named bag.

Name Labels

A reminder to please check that **all** of your child's clothing and bags are named including lunch boxes and water bottles. Please remember to name coats, 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 on **Mondays (Starting next week)**. 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.

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

Water bottles

Please send in a drink bottle to school every day with water inside. Children help themselves to water from their own bottle during the day. Please ensure bottles are named. We will support children to refill their bottles once empty too.

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-nut school. This protects children and adults with allergies. You need to book school lunches through the Fresh Start Catering website. You can manage the account online.

Snack time

We will be providing your child with a fruit/vegetable snack and milk every day. Please let staff know of any new allergies or specific dietary requirements.

'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 or being super helpful at home. We have included some little star awards alongside this letter. Please fill one in and we will share their successes with the class. 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. We have attached a collection form to this letter. **Please can you fill in the names of people who will pick your child up regularly from school, including yourselves and the password that they will be using and return this to us.** Please keep the school up to date with any changes to email addresses or telephone numbers in case of emergencies and for consistent communication.

Evidence Me

In Foundation Stage we use an electronic tracking tool called 'Evidence Me' to gather evidence about the children's learning. We take photographs which are annotated and we record the objectives being met. Parents and carers will be able to access these throughout the year. You have all signed up to use Evidence Me already and should be able to view your child's profile through the app. Do let us know if you have any problems with accessing the app.

Class Dojo

We are very excited to announce that William Fletcher will be using ClassDojo to connect with families. ClassDojo is a communication platform that connects teachers with children and parents securely. Staff will use Class Dojo to communicate with families and share the wonderful learning taking place in class. The school will be sharing information, newsletters, dates and updates with families via Class Dojo. In time, Class Dojo will replace the school app as

the main channel of communication. Children will be able to earn Dojo points for demonstrating the school values and gain certificates for accumulating points. We'd like all families to join us and sign up for ClassDojo! You can use it on any device: it is a simple, free mobile app for iOS or Android, and can also be used from a computer at www.classdojo.com. As parents or carers, you will receive a unique website link through your email. You will be asked to sign up using an email address and to create a password before you select your child from the class list. When you are connected, you will be able to access your own child's online portfolio and any information the teacher shares on the class or school page. Find out more about ClassDojo, and how it is safe and simple for everyone - <https://www.classdojo.com/en-gb/learnmore/> Videos to help parents complete the signing up process in addition to instructions on how to use Class Dojo can be found in: our school/useful links section on the school website.

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 are: 8.45am - 3pm. The school gate is opened at 8.35am. Please come into the Foundation Stage garden to collect your children at the end of each day.

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, Karen Weeks and Steph Rada
Foundation Stage Team

Checklist:

- Share yellow diary and story cards with your child.
Send yellow diary into school every day. Return story cards to school on Fridays.
- Check all clothes are labelled
- Send drink bottle in each day
- PE day is Monday. Wear PE kit to school
- Send a little star award in when your child achieves something at home!
- Sign up to Evidence Me and Class Dojo (let me know if I can help you do this)

Send back to school:

- Collection form with names and a family password
- Send wellies and spare clothes bag in to keep in school