



HERNE BAY INFANT SCHOOL
Year R Curriculum Newsletter
Term 1

September 2016

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to all our Year R children and families. We are really pleased with how the children are settling into school, getting to know staff, the other children and the school routine. This newsletter will give you an overview of what your child will be doing over the forthcoming term.

Connector (Topic – how we connect different subjects) Our topic for the first term is called it “Can you sing a nursery rhyme?” In your child’s goody bag from their stay and play session in July you will have found the Nursery Rhymes that we will be learning this term for our connector. Each week we will be learning two Nursery Rhymes and basing our work around them. At the end of the term we will be having a sponsored challenge – the children will be sponsored to sing all ten of the Nursery Rhymes they have learnt to you in a class performance. If you have had the opportunity to make any Nursery Rhyme art over the holidays, then please bring it into class; it will be lovely for your child to share what they have made with their new friends. As well as learning our Nursery Rhymes, we will be learning about each other; learning about our new school environment and getting to know the school routines and expectations.

Educational Visits We are very lucky to have a music workshop with Jim the Drummer. He is coming in to visit on Thursday, 13 October. During the workshop Jim introduces the children to his different drums, performs for them and gives all the children an opportunity to have a turn.

Book bags Please ensure your child brings their book bag to school every day. They will bring in and take home their home/school contact book; any important messages can be shared here. Any letters or leaflets that are sent home will be in your child’s book bag, as well as anything they might have made that they would like to bring home. On a Friday each week, we allow the children to choose a story book from the classroom to bring home for you to share together.

Communication and Language We will be using the summertime diaries that you and your child have been keeping about their summer holidays as a focus for speaking and listening. The children really enjoy sharing their diaries, so please remember to send them into class.

Literacy We will be focusing on fine motor skills. You will be invited to a Fine Motor Skill Stay and Play session later this term to come and try out some of the things your child will have been doing in school and to give you some ideas of things you could try out at home. The children will be practising different handwriting patterns and writing their names using correct letter formation.

Maths The focus for maths will be counting. Children will be practising counting in sequence with 1:1 correspondence. They will be learning to recognise numerals and will be singing number songs and rhymes.



Continuous Provision (Learning through play) Continuous Provision is child-initiated play. The children have two opportunities during the day to make their own choices about what they would like to do using the areas within the classroom and the class garden or the larger outdoor area. During the first term, the children are introduced to all of the areas, the sorts of things they can do and the expectations of that area. The children will also be taught the language of learning so that they can talk about what they have been learning and what skills they have been practising to the rest of their class at the end of the Continuous Provision session. The outdoor environment has areas such as the mud kitchen, the sand and water area, the investigation area and the construction area all of which the children find exciting and stimulating and where they can follow their own interests.

How can you support learning at home?

Speaking and Listening: Talk to your child about what they have been doing. Try and make talk open – ended. It helps to develop children’s thinking skills. Ask questions like “Can you remember what happened when....?” “Look! What’s going on here?” “Let’s think about what we / you are going to do”. Towards the end of the term we will be listening carefully to the initial sounds we can hear in words, for example “c..cat”. Discuss this with your child and find out what initial sounds they can hear in your home environment.

Reading: Share stories at home; most children love to have a bedtime story. Reading a bedtime story to your child is a chance for you and your child to relax and enjoy some quiet time together as well as being important in encouraging your child’s communication and language skills. Children learn the language of stories, the importance of a beginning, a middle and an end as well as the importance of engaging with the story and the characters – all important skills when they come to telling and writing their own stories. Ask questions like, “Why do you think that happened?” “Tell me how it all started....” “Can you guess what will happen next?”.

Writing: Your child will have handwriting pattern sheets that will come home as an opportunity for them to practise their fine motor skills at home. Come along to the Fine Motor Skill Stay and Play session for exciting activities you could try at home.

Maths: Numbers are everywhere! Practise counting throughout the day! When you are out walking to school or around town, see how many numbers you can find. Look for house numbers and see if your child recognises the numeral.

When looking at cars, play number plate hunt. “Who can find the number 5?”. Counting—how many lampposts on the way to school? How many red cars? How many dogs?

Connector: Enjoy singing the challenge Nursery Rhymes together. As we are learning about each other, discuss your family members with your child or people that are close to them.

Dates for your Diaries –

Wednesday, 5 October – Fine Motor Skills Stay and Play at 2pm. Come into school for the end of the afternoon and spend time in all the Year R classes trying out different activities with your child.

Thursday, 20 October – Year R Sponsored Nursery Rhyme Challenge at 2.30pm. Collect sponsors and then come along to your child’s class and watch them sing the ten Nursery Rhymes they have been learning over the term.

End of term: Friday, 21 October.

Term 2 starts: Tuesday, 1 November.