



HERNE BAY INFANT SCHOOL
Year R Curriculum Newsletter
Term 1

September 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to our school; we hope you have enjoyed the summer and your child is excited about starting school. This newsletter will give you an overview of what your child will be doing over the forthcoming term and will be updated every new term.

2build-a-profile - We would like to tell you about our online Learning Journeys. These are similar to the Learning Journey that your child will have had in their Nursery setting that show the things they have been doing in school and catalogues their progress in learning. These are a safe way for us to share with each other your child's learning throughout their year in reception. It will allow you to upload your own photos and view our photo's too. If you haven't already, please can you give your child's teacher your up to date email address. You will receive an additional letter explaining 2build a profile in more detail.

Connector- (Topic – How we connect different subjects) Our Connector for Term One will be split into two parts. The first will be 'All about me' where our activities will focus on getting to know the children, settling them into the routines of school. The second part of the term will focus on Nursery Rhymes including our Nursery Rhyme Challenge event. We will be learning lots about each other through games and team building exercises as well as practising many of our favourite nursery rhymes.

Educational Visits- Each year we plan trips and visits outside the school premises that support and enrich the connector that the children are learning about. These educational visits require lots of help from additional adults; this is where your help and support is invaluable. If you are interested in helping your child's class, please speak to your class teacher for more information. We will hand out letters throughout the year in your child's book bag to let you know about upcoming trips and hope that many of you will be able to offer support with this.

Sponsorship- Throughout the year we will host special sponsored events. These events are used to raise money for the enrichment activities that are planned across the school year. The money raised from our Nursery Rhyme Challenge at the end of term 1 will go towards new resources for the outdoor area and a Chinese feast to celebrate the Chinese New Year in Term 3

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 which allows you to share messages with the class teacher if necessary. 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 invite the children to choose a story book from the classroom to bring home for you to share together. Please ensure you return the book back every Friday to be exchanged each week. With inclement weather around the corner please ensure your child has a waterproof coat and spare underwear in their book bag also.

Communication and Language – We will be introducing the children to new words related to the connector. We will also be focusing on hearing the initial sounds in words. Some children will be starting our phonics programme Read Write Inc (RWI) whilst others will continue to practise hearing the sounds that blend together to make words; for example c-a-t. We begin the children on RWI when they are ready supporting their different stages of development. Please do ask your class teacher for more information on this.

Dates for your Diaries –

Wednesday 3rd October – Reading morning and curriculum talk

An opportunity to see reading in action in your child's class followed by a workshop in the Corner room 8.40-9.30am to find out more about the way in which Reading is taught at Herne Bay Infant school

Friday 19th October – Nursery Rhyme Challenge 2.30pm

Literacy – Initially this will focus on their fine motor control (hand control) to practise different handwriting patterns. We will then enable your child to practise writing their names using correct letter formation. If you are teaching your child to write their name, please use the name card we gave you from the summer pack as this teaches your child the lower case lettering. We will encourage children to write sounds they know and if there are children ready to write words we will certainly get them ready to record those too. We will be reading and sharing lots of stories with your children throughout the school day.

Maths – Counting happens every day in the classroom to support children's mathematical understanding. The focus for Term 1 will be based on counting, 1:1 correspondence and number recognition. We will also be naming and using shapes in pattern and the environment as well as using simple measures in cooking activities.

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 will be introduced to each area available for Continuous Provision. The areas will be updated and provisions will be put in place in relation to your child's interests. The children will be observed and pictures will be uploaded to their online journal.

How can you support learning at home?

Speaking and Listening: Talk to your child about starting school and what they enjoyed during the day. 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?" "What did you have for lunch?".

Encouraging your child to identify the sounds in words will support their development in speaking and listening. You could say 'can you please pass me your c-u-p' to encourage your child to identify what word you have broken down.

Reading: READING IS VERY IMPORTANT! Reading a bedtime story to your child is a fabulous 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. When reading you may want ask your child to identify certain sounds they may recognise in words. Especially if the sounds are in their name, some children may find this an exciting game. You may just want to identify the sounds to children 'Look there is the M sound like in your name Mason'.

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: Hand writing patterns will be coming home with the previous learnt patterns for you to practise and keep at home. Please do encourage your child to practise writing their name with the correct letter formation. They may like to help you write shopping lists - even if they are not sounds it is a great opportunity for children to begin writing and their work to have a context. If your child is finding pencil grip tricky, please let your classroom teacher know and we can teach you a superb method using a crocodile pinch.

Maths: Please do continue to count and identify numbers with your children. You could also look for different shapes you can see in the environment.

Connector: Please can you practice nursery rhymes with your child and if there are any new/old rhymes we haven't suggested please feel free to share these with us!

Please, if you have any queries, questions or issues please don't hesitate to speak to your child's teachers. We want to work very closely with you to ensure your child has the best start in school. Thank you for all your support already, we are going to have a fantastic year together!

