

Recreation Road Infant School

Newsletter 2

October 2015



Thank you to all of you that attended our Parent-Teacher Interviews last week. It was lovely to share lots of good stories with you. Please remember that if you do wish to meet with a member of staff just contact the school office and we will endeavour to arrange an appointment as soon as possible.

Early Years Outdoor Learning Area:

The renovation work is now finished and we have a super facility to use each day. The climbing area has been completely overhauled and now lends itself to much more creative and imaginative play. The garden areas are looking splendid still, even though last week the sweetcorn was harvested and eaten by a small group with Adrienne and Jenny.

Many thanks to all the EYFS staff for bringing the space to life and we all hope the children have many years of great play in the area.

Please do not let your little ones play on equipment at the start of the day, as this has been set out for focussed learning activities. Equally we do not want anyone to use the space after school as it is a learning space and one we wish to keep in good condition.

Volunteering:

We have had a huge demand from people wanting to volunteer in school which is great...but at present we are full to bursting with volunteers and so we will not be completing any further DBS checks/Induction Meetings unless they have already been arranged.

Parent Support Advisor:

Lauren Sherwood, our Parent Support Advisor (PSA) will be holding regular coffee mornings throughout the term. These are opportunities to chat about issues of parenting, meet other parents and collect further information about services.

The next one is on Thursday 15th October 9:00-10:00 in the hall. Little ones are welcome too.

Reminder:

School will be closed for Half Term between Thursday 22nd October and Friday 30th October. We'll see you again on Monday 2nd November.

Subject of the Month: Reading

Our Aims:

We want our children to be enthusiastic readers who are able to:

- Perceive reading as a pleasurable and enjoyable activity
- Use reading to support other learning
- Perceive reading as a purposeful, lifelong skill
- Use a range of reading strategies to help them with unfamiliar texts enabling them to become independent readers
- Become knowledgeable about authors, illustrators, different genres and styles



Children are taught to employ a broad range of reading strategies alongside the development of phonics:

Syntactic (knowledge of our own language): We draw on the spoken language we already know, and our experience of “book” language to try to predict what words or phrases are coming and to confirm what we read.

Semantic (expectation of what makes sense): We use our general expectation of what makes sense in life to try to predict words or phrases and to interpret what is happening.

We use the immediate textual context, including pictures, to help work out meaning and to confirm what we read.

Bibliographic (Knowledge of how books and written texts work) We use our knowledge of written genres and conventions to help predict words and phrases.

Graphophonic (Confirming and checking using letter sounds and sight words) We help the process by recognising familiar words and phrases as well as developing word-building skills

Children will be encouraged to increase their repertoire of texts and learn how to make critical judgements about these texts, selecting authors, genres and formats that they prefer. They will be able to experience “real” books, poetry, non-fiction, reading scheme books, magazines and comics.

The children will learn about poetic devices, develop further knowledge about rhythm and rhyme and explore a wider range of word-play such as riddles, puns and jokes.

A range of non-narrative texts will also be looked at. They will develop a growing knowledge and understanding of the conventions of non-fiction eg contents, index, diagrams, headings and glossaries.

Children will be encouraged to read for pleasure and for purpose.

Through structure teaching sessions in the class they will be developing the confidence to read independently and fluently, understanding how punctuation is used to add meaning and becoming aware of the use of dialogue and speech. They will also begin to understand inference and figurative language through using pictures as well as understanding subtle meanings within the text. Staff will focus on appropriate skills and select appropriate materials within their teaching.

Getting...and keeping the reading bug!

All children have the opportunity to select their own reading material from a number of book collections within school. Each class has their class library area. These collections contain good quality literature- “real books” and a selection of reading scheme books. Pupils are encouraged to select appropriate texts using the 5-Finger Rule. Please talk to your class teacher if you need help with this.

Children take their chosen books home each night so that at home the focus can be on **SHARING BOOKS together in a relaxed and pleasurable way**. This may mean that books are read to children as well as children joining in reading texts themselves.