

Working together to achieve excellence



Dorrington
CE (Aided) School

Living by our Christian Values of



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Dear Parents/Carers of Dragonfly Children,

We would like to keep you informed of the focus for each area of learning this term so we have compiled this summary for you. The following also includes PE times and other important dates.

There will be two meetings for Reception parents please see details below. The purpose of these meetings is to explain our way of working and to share ways in which you can support the process at home.

This marks the beginning of our partnership in your child's learning journey and I hope you will be able to join us in order to give your child the best possible start.

Term		
Autumn 2017	Spring 2018	Summer 2018
Reception		
<p>Communication, Language and Literacy</p> <p>This term we will focus on interacting with others in a variety of different situations. Children will be given lots of opportunities to learn through play by negotiating plans and activities and taking turns in conversation. They will be encouraged to use spoken and written language as part of their play and learning and use language to imagine and recreate roles and experiences.</p> <p>The children will be encouraged to listen with enjoyment, and respond to stories, songs and other music, rhymes and poems and make up their own. They will begin to show an understanding of the elements of stories, such as main character and sequence of events.</p> <p>They will have a daily 'Letters and Sounds' phonics session where they will learn to link sounds to letters by naming and sounding the letters of the alphabet. These will be supported by use of phonic mats which the children will bring home to practice with (see details above of phonics meeting for parents to explain how this works).</p> <p>They will begin to use their phonic knowledge to write simple regular words and attempt more complex words.</p>	<p>Mathematics</p> <p>As part of their mathematical development children will be learning to count reliably up to at least ten everyday objects from a larger group. They will say and use number names in order in familiar contexts and use developing mathematical ideas and methods to solve practical problems.</p> <p>They will begin to find one more or one less than a number from one to ten and in practical activities and discussion, begin to use the vocabulary involved in adding and subtracting. They will find the total number of items in two groups by counting all of them and begin to relate addition to combining two groups of objects and subtraction to 'taking away'.</p> <p>In practical activities they will be encouraged to use language such as 'more' or 'less' to compare numbers and 'greater', 'smaller', 'heavier' or 'lighter' to compare quantities.</p> <p>They will be encouraged to use their own methods to work through a problem.</p> <p>In our work on shape and space they will use everyday words to describe position and begin to use language such as 'circle' or 'bigger' to describe the shape and size of solids and flat shapes.</p>	
<p>Physical Development</p> <p>The children will be developing their skills in games activities. This will include running, jumping, hopping, rolling and an awareness of space together with throwing and catching skills development. Our child initiated sessions allow many opportunities for them to develop physically and children can choose from a range of outdoor toys such as bikes and scooters. In addition they will have lots of experiences with tools and equipment in order to develop their fine motor skills. They will explore how they can use their bodies through dance and they will be encouraged to use space effectively.</p>	<p>Personal, Social and Emotional Development</p> <p>The children will begin by understanding their role as a member of the class, taking on board roles and responsibilities in the classroom. They will learn each others names and how to treat each other with kindness and respect.</p>	

<p>Expressive Arts and Design</p> <p>The children will learn to use equipment independently, prepare for and clear away from creative work, especially when painting or undertaking collage work. They will have regular opportunities to use stapling, gluing, paper fasteners and other joining techniques. When learning about their environment the children will have a lot of opportunity to create outdoor structures and designs. The children will sing a range of new and familiar songs to develop self-confidence and musical appreciation. They will explore; beat tempo, structure and texture with voice and instruments.</p>	<p>Understanding the World</p> <p>Through the topic 'Marvellous me and my wonderful family' the children will be looking at how they have changed from birth and find out about past and present events in their own lives. They will look closely at similarities and differences between themselves and others in terms of hair colour, height and eye colour. They will learn about their senses and how they can use them to explore the world around them. Experimental and investigative work will focus on exploring and using senses, observing and describing living things and making predictions. As part of our investigations we will be looking at our local environment and the children will have the opportunity to take part in activities in our Forest School area during Forest School sessions.</p> <p>Later in the term we will be looking at celebration and those of other communities and traditions.</p> <p>In technology, we will be teaching keyboard, mouse and touchpad skills which will enable children to access the classroom laptops daily. They will learn to use the mouse to control the cursor and make selections with a single click. The children will learn how to complete simple computer programs as part of our cross curricular work supporting problem solving, mathematical and language development. We will also be learning how to use simple programmable toys such as a Bee-bot.</p>
<p>General Information</p> <p>PE PE will be on Tuesdays. Please ensure your child has their PE kit in school at the beginning of the week and that everything is named. Could you please ensure that extra clothing is also kept in your child's PE kit just in case of any little accidents. Should your child borrow school clothing please ensure that it is washed and returned to school as soon as possible.</p> <p>Forest School Dragonflies will be going to Forest School weekly and sessions will be on Fridays. Again please ensure your child has their Forest School kit in school at the beginning of week and that everything is named.</p> <p>Water Please ensure that your child brings a drink of water (not fruit drinks) to school each day. This needs to be in a labelled bottle that we can keep in the classroom which can be accessed during the day. You may also wish to provide a separate drink for lunch time or they can use the same one.</p> <p>Snacks Your child will receive a piece of fruit and milk during morning break. Should you wish to send an additional snack please ensure this is a healthy snack.</p> <p>Book bags Could you please ensure that school book bags are used to store reading dairies and books. These should be sent to school daily. I am aware that these have not yet been given to children.</p>	<p>Homework</p> <p><u>How you can help your child at home</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your child will be bringing home a reading book and diary. Please write in your child's reading diary the pages your child has read at home and sign it. The first reading books will have no words, talk through the story with your child and encourage them to retell you the story. The next set of reading books will have small consonant vowel consonant words in that they will be able to phonetically read. The words that they will be given will contain letters that they will have learnt in class. As part of our phonics work they will bring home a phonics mat for you to help support the sounds we are learning in school in any given week. Your children will also bring home a key ring with 'tricky words' to learn. These are words they cannot sound talk and need to learn as a whole. These words can be taken off the key ring so you can play games with them such as hiding them and they read them when they find them or have them face down and turn them over one at a time to read. WOW moments (please see details attached).
<p><u>Dates for your diary</u></p> <p>Sports Festival – Thursday 14th September at 12.30pm</p> <p>Maths workshop for parents – Tuesday 3rd October – Time to be confirmed</p> <p>Phonics workshop for parents – Thursday 19th October – Time to be confirmed</p> <p>Please check the weekly newsletter for further dates and information</p>	

We hope you find this information useful in supporting your child at home with the work she/he is engaged in at school. Please do not hesitate to book an after school appointment if you need to speak to us at any time.

Yours sincerely

Miss Elvins