

# Early Years Newsletter Spring 2017



Dear Parents

Happy New Year! We hope that you had an enjoyable and relaxing Christmas holiday. We are really looking forward to all of the exciting things that we have planned for the children this half term. Miss Freshwater will be teaching alongside me this half term and working with the children, so we welcome her to the class.



## Our Learning Journey

Our new topic 'What's in the Box?' was launched last week with a variety of boxes arriving for Elm class as well as stories and poems about different boxes. It has already generated much discussion and excitement for the children.

We will be exploring a box of old fashioned toys with the children and discussing how these are similar or different to our own toys and how they might be used. Linked to this we will read Old Bear stories.

Kipper's Toybox will be the focus of our maths lesson for counting, adding, take away and problem solving.

We will be thinking about lots of different aspects of boxes; finding out what they are made of, sorting them, using them to make models and role playing with them and having our own adventures! By building, sorting and deconstructing boxes we will be discover shapes and sizes, labels and designs. Phonics sessions will continue daily and these will be taught in ability groups to allow the children to make progress at their own pace; developing knowledge of letters and sounds, blending for reading and beginning to look at simple rules for spelling and writing.

Other core skills will be embedded into the children's learning and we will continue with our morning carousel groups to focus learning in key areas within small groups.

A copy of our plan has been included so you can see what we will be learning in all the areas of the curriculum. Please come and ask if you have any questions regarding this.

Alternatively you can look on the school website

[www.bartons.w-sussex.sch.uk](http://www.bartons.w-sussex.sch.uk)

You will also see some of our work there and the videos we have made demonstrating how to say the letter sounds.

### Interesting Boxes

If you have any old, interesting or unusual boxes which you would be happy to share with the children please let us know. Perhaps you use a particular tool box for work or have a beautifully decorated box which we could share - even just to show the children, it would be appreciated.

Also, if you have any particularly interesting or old toys you would be happy for us to share, please let us know.

### Next Steps

We hope that you have read the Stars and Wishes sheet that we provided before the holidays. These give us lots of areas to focus on with the children's learning. If you have not already done so please return the parent comment sheet so that we can build a full picture of your child's achievements and interests.

### PE kits and earrings

**Please ensure your child has full PE kit in school.**

Our PE sessions will continue to be on Thursdays so please ensure **all earrings are removed** on this day and that long hair is tied back securely. It is a good idea to leave PE kits in school all week in case we need to swap sessions with another class at any time.

### Help Required!

We would warmly welcome any offers of support or help from parents or grandparents of children in Elm class. We do not currently have any parents reading with our children. This obviously reduces the number of times your child reads individually during the week, so any offers of help for a few hours on any day would be appreciated.



### Home Support

Please continue to read regularly with your children and support them with their phonics, red words and numbers at home. Please also make sure that you or your child change the 'sharing' book regularly.



### Contacting us

We are really pleased with the way the children are developing their independence, but some children are still not coming into school on their own and we would really like to encourage them to do this from now on. Please help us by saying goodbye to your child at the door and let them sort their things out themselves.

If you have any general concerns that you would like to address then please ask to see us outside school hours, either before or after. You can also arrange this by contacting the school office on 01243 822056.

Many Thanks

Mrs Reynolds and the Early Years team.