

Early Years Newsletter Autumn 2018



November 2018

Dear Parents

We hope that you all had a lovely half term with your children. The children have settled back into school very quickly and we are looking forward to another exciting half term. We are very pleased with how the children are progressing in all areas of their learning. In order to support their progression further we are starting to introduce a morning activity carousel, which will run from 8.55-9.30 each morning. The children will be in a small group which will complete a different activity each morning. There are five activities so that by Friday they will have completed them all. Some of these activities are adult focused and some are independent, helping children to develop their skills in all areas.

In order to help your children settle quickly to these activities, please arrive at school promptly, encourage them to come in by themselves (if they do not do so already) and put their things away quickly so they can join their group for reading, writing, maths, creative and other learning tasks. Please come and see us if you have any questions.



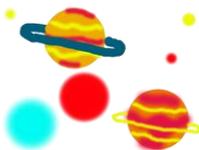
Our Learning Journey

Our topic this half term will be based on the theme of Space: 'Reach for the Stars'. It will include aspects of changes in the weather as we move through Autumn into Winter, finding out what is in space, creating our own Aliens and using the theme to guide our developing writing skills and imagination.

Artwork will be developed through colour mixing and use of different media, materials and techniques. We will therefore be using all our senses to explore and learn through a variety of activities inside and outside the classroom. I hope you have spotted our displays!

Towards the end of the term we will re-focus and move on to think about the celebrations and traditions linked to Christmas.

We will continue to improve our phonic knowledge and maths work with daily sessions for each of these in small groups. Some children are already reading words in simple sentences which is a great start! Alongside this we will continue to strengthen children's knowledge and awareness of rhyme through singing and poetry as well as through books and reading.



Elm Class Parents Meetings

Thank you to all those parents who attended our meeting in the first week of this half term. It was good to catch up with everyone now that all the children are settled in school. I hope you found it useful. There will be further meetings on maths and phonics coming up, so do look out for dates in the newsletters.

It was lovely to speak to so many people at parents evenings last term. I always feel that these meetings help to improve our understanding of your children and hopefully reassure you that your child is settled in school.

Both these events are held to share as much information as we can, but if you require further clarification or specific help for your child please ask.

Sharing Work

There will be a chance to look at and share your child's work from this term in a few weeks. Look out for dates on the website and newsletters.

PE information

Our PE day is on Thursday. Please make sure that your child has their PE kit with them in school. This should be **named clearly** in their PE bag (which should also be clearly named) and hanging on their peg. We would be very grateful if you could help your child to practise dressing and undressing him or herself independently at home, many are nearly there now but socks and tights are often an issue! Not only is this a vital life skill but also it really helps us to use our precious hall time efficiently and helps us to get on quickly afterwards. They are so proud when they achieve independence in this. Please also ensure that **earrings are removed** on Thursdays and long hair is tied back securely.

Parent Helpers

We would warmly welcome any offers of support or help from parents or grandparents of children in Elm or other classes- especially for reading. If you have any spare time please contact your child's class teacher for details.

We also always need the following items for resources:

- Junk-modelling materials. E.g. clean boxes, paper tubes, cartons, plastic tubs etc.
- Role play clothes
- Spare pants and socks

Information from home

If your child does something at home that amazes you please could you record it on a post-it or short note. Then give it to us so that we can include it in their 'learning journey' books. I have sent out the first set of observations to those who have given me email addresses. I hope you enjoy seeing some of what your child does in class and that you will be able to send me examples of your child applying their learning at home. The children have been talking about using their bags of equipment for writing and cutting at home.

Contacting us

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.

Thank you for your support.

Mrs Reynolds and the Early Years team

