

Early Years Newsletter Autumn 2021



Welcome to the start of a brand new school year and also a very warm welcome to our new children and families. We are looking forward to an action-packed year in Early Years at Nantwich Primary Academy. The following newsletter will highlight everything you need to know for the Autumn term.



Due to the current Covid-19 situation, we know that transition for all our children this year will feel a bit different. Whilst some children may happily skip into school on their first day without a backward glance, some children and families may feel more anxious about starting back at school. Please rest assured that we will do absolutely everything we can to make sure your child feels happy, safe and secure with us at this special time in their (and your) lives. If you have any questions or concerns whatsoever, please speak to us and we will do our best to help.

Ways to be involved this year:

There will be lots of exciting opportunities for families to be involved in their child's learning this year. Here are some of the activities we are going to start immediately.

We will be sending home 'Wow I'm so impressed' stars for you to complete and return. These are for you to share with us those proud family moments, such as your child has got themselves dressed all by themselves or can ride a bike without stabilisers. We share the stars with the rest of the class and then put them up on our special display for everyone to read.

Once a term we will also be sending home topic investigation cards to discuss with your child and find out if there is an interesting question they would like to find out the answer to. We explore this in class to find out the answer. Each child that has their question answered gets a special reward!

We will also be sending you on an Autumn treasure hunt and then we will start preparing for Christmas....!



Class Dojo and Learning Book.

Our positive behaviour system uses 'Class Dojo' where children collect points as a reward for making the right choices. I know you have all been able to see messages we have sent out but we will be using Class Dojo to share our weekly news and upcoming events too.

In your starter pack there was a permission letter for our online learning journey. This is how we track your child's learning and development whilst they are in Early Years. You will receive details of your password and login details through email once this has been set up for your child.

Morning toast - Every child is offered half a slice of toast each morning. This is not breakfast, but helps fill that 'hungry' gap before snack time. We do ask for a contribution of £1 per week for each child and this is paid online using our School Money system as we are a cashless school (this is also how you pay for school trips or other events in school). This contribution also enables us to buy bread, snacks, cooking ingredients, fresh playdough and role play resources.

Milk and snack - Every morning each child is offered a carton of fresh milk to drink with their toast. This will be free until your child is 5 and then you will be sent details of how to pay directly through our milk supplier. Mid-morning, they will also receive a free piece of fruit.

Water - Please provide your child with a clearly named water bottle. This should only contain plain water, not clear fruit water or juice. Packed lunches should also contain a drink.

Reading

Reading books (some with words, some without) will soon be sent home for you to share with your Reception child. At this point, it is not expected that they read every word, but get used to answering questions about the story or remembering repeated words.

We recommend reading with your Reception child upwards of 3x a week and **please** write in the reading journal each time you read together. We will be checking the reading journal for your comments. Nursery will be bringing home sharing story books with ideas of exciting activities to do together.

Our Learning

Our classroom learning uses the Foundation Stage Curriculum which focuses on three prime areas (essential to underpin children's future learning and healthy development) and four specific learning areas: literacy, mathematics, understanding the world and expressive arts and design.



This term, our topic will be 999 Emergency!

Our key texts this term will be 'The Colour Monster' by Anna Llenas and 'Emergency!' by Margaret Mayo. These lovely stories will help us explore feelings and emotions, people who help us and how to keep ourselves safe. We will also look at the changes in seasons, animals that hibernate, and the Rama and Sita story for Diwali.

Literacy (Reading and Writing)

We will be learning how to hold a pencil correctly to form letters. We will be looking at rhyme and alliteration and listening to initial sounds in words. We will be recognising and writing names using a *cursive letter formation*. In Nursery we will be encouraging confident mark makers, exploring sensory ways of making patterns and talking about our pictures and drawings.

Phonics: We use a carefully planned phonics strategy, based upon 'Letters and Sounds' which progressively teaches the children the children how to sound out words to read them and then hear the sounds in words to be able to write them. More information on this soon.

Number, Space, Shape and Measure

We will be learning how to recognise and write numerals to five and practice counting objects one at a time. We will extend our learning to explore how many ways we can make 10 and even having a 5th birthday party for our class Colour Monster! We will also explore 2D shapes, sorting objects in different ways and making repeating patterns.

Understanding the World

Using an enquiry based approach to our learning, we will look at questions like: What colour is happiness? Who can help us in an emergency? Do we all celebrate in the same way? Where do hedgehogs go in winter? We will also use topic cards from home to create more questions to investigate.

Reminders and two requests please

If you have not done so already, please could both **Nursery and Reception** children have a pair of named wellies to keep for our outdoor play. Your child can then splish in puddles/snow to his/her hearts content and still keep their feet dry. Please also send a **named** coat in every day.

Named wellies
into school for
everyone
please.



PE lessons for **Reception** children

Children in Reception will be having PE every Wednesday morning. On this day, your Reception child needs to come into school in their PE kit which is a plain white t-shirt, black shorts, black joggers and a black sweatshirt (not a hoody), no logos or stripes please. Your child will need to wear black Velcro PE pumps. Name everything please. Nursery children will be doing their own focused activities in our outside area and will not need to wear PE kit.



Velcro PE
pumps for
Reception
children

Uniform

School Uniform should be worn by both Reception and Nursery children. All uniform should be labelled with their name please as trying to locate the owner of unnamed coats, cardigans and jumpers is almost impossible! Large hair bows, headbands with gripper spikes and lace-up deck shoes/trainers are not part of our school uniform and they catch on our outdoor equipment. Unfortunately, due to health and safety reasons children will not be allowed on our outside equipment if these items are worn.

Finally, as always, if you have any queries or worries, please do not hesitate to speak (or send a Dojo message) to myself to any member of the Early Years Team and we will come up with a mutually convenient time for us to chat. We also have strong links to the Children's Centre who will be running a wide range of fun sessions for babies/toddlers and family support, so let us know if you would like some more details.

Mrs Hope and the Early Years Team