

# Year R Autumn Term 2 Curriculum Newsletter

4<sup>th</sup> November 2016

Dear Parents / Guardians,

Thank you very much for supporting us in settling your children. It was lovely to meet so many of you at parents' evening and to discuss your child's achievements so far. During this half term we will continue to reinforce the school routines and build on the children's confidence within the setting and making new friends.

Our first topic this half term is 'Once Long Ago'. During this topic we will be looking at different types of castles and thinking about the characters that live in them. We will be doing lots of role play and creating stories, and we would urge you to share as many different stories with your child at home to help them come up with their own exciting story ideas. On **Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> November**, we would like to invite the children to come to school dressed up as character from a castle. This could be a prince, a princess, a knight, a dragon, a king or a queen! We also have two **Parent Progress mornings** (8:45-9:15) on **Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup>** and **Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> November**. This will give you the opportunity to come into school to look at the lovely work your children have been producing this term. Our Autumn 2 Parent pages will be available on these dates for you to sign and discuss the 'Once Long Ago' topic with your children and share any super feedback with us!



Our last topic of the Autumn Term is 'Christmas', where we will learn about the Christmas Story. We are very excited about all the festive activities, including our whole school Christmas Production, which will take place on **Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup>** and **Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December**. Our Year R Christmas Party will take place on **Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December**. More details will follow nearer to the dates...



In our daily phonic sessions we are learning letter sounds and the formation of each letter shape. We will continue to send home letter flash cards for you to practise at home. Alongside sound recognition, we will also teach them how to put letters together to read simple words (blending). We will send a list of words home after your child has learnt a few sounds. The first list of words will be in book bags this week to give you some suggestions of words your child can try and blend. Please practise letter sounds little and often...it all helps!



In 'Number Fun!' we will continue to sort objects and practice our 1:1 correspondence for accurate counting. We will be teaching the children the concepts of more and less and how to use equipment to solve simple problems. We will also continue to recognise numbers by sight and begin to practise forming the numbers from 0-10 correctly - this would be a great thing to help your child with at home... so get those number rhymes ready!!




The children are particularly enjoying our M.O.O.T (Managing Our Own Time) sessions, which encourage them to use their new learning environment with greater confidence and develop their independence skills, problem solving, cooperation and creativity. M.O.O.T takes place four times a week and allows the children to plan and undertake their own learning from a wide range of activities available. The challenges within the learning areas are linked to our current topic.



It has been a joy to watch the children becoming more and more confident as the term has gone by. We are delighted with their enthusiasm and progress, and we would now like them to come into the classroom by themselves. This would mean bringing your child to the classroom door and saying goodbye outside instead of inside the classroom. This does not mean that if they are having a wobbly day, you will not be able to support them or speak to us concerning any information we may need for that day or collection. A small request from us is that your child is in school ready to start at **8:55**. The doors and gate will be closed promptly at this time to enable us to begin our daily routines more smoothly. Please ensure, for the safety and security of your children, that if the small Reception gates/ classroom doors are closed that you take your child to the main office. The office staff will then register your child and bring them through to their class.

We would also really appreciate it if your child has a coat in school at **ALL** times as we use our outdoor classroom in all weathers and therefore we really need the children to have the correct clothing. Please also remember to provide a P.E. kit if you have not already done so. As always, please remember if you have any concerns or queries, please do speak to your child's class teacher.

Yours sincerely,

Melanie Arnott  
Squirrel Class 

Aimee Reilly  
Otter Class 

Ellen Edwards  
Hedgehog Class 