

# Year R Autumn 1 Term




## Curriculum Newsletter

9<sup>th</sup> September 2019


Dear Parents / Guardians,

We would like to extend a warm welcome to you and your children from all the staff at Shirley Infant School! It has been a pleasure to meet so many of you through our home and school visits, and we are enjoying every minute of getting to know your children in their new classes! We have a very committed and enthusiastic Early Years team who work together to achieve the best for your children and to make this a very happy and memorable first year of school. We would like to introduce you to the team:




-  **Squirrel Class:** Class teacher Mrs Kennedy and Early Years Assistants Miss Howard
-  **Otter Class:** Class teacher Mrs Hearne and Early Years Assistant Mrs Powell
-  **Hedgehog Class:** Class teacher Miss Dunne and Early Years Assistant Mrs Farmer and Mrs Preston

During this half term our priority is to settle the children into their new class and the school routines. We have found all the information you have given us about your children very useful in planning for their transition into school. It is so important that the children feel happy in the classroom with their new friends, so please do not hesitate to speak to your child's teacher if you have any questions or concerns about how they are settling.

 Our first topic this half term is 'Happy to be Me' in which we talked about ourselves and our families, our likes and dislikes, and found out more about our new friends. Our second topic is 'Let's Learn with Harry'. Throughout this topic we will be reading lots of the 'Harry and the Bucketful of Dinosaurs' stories and taking part in our own dinosaur adventures. We will be counting and sorting dinosaurs, creating noisy capture dances, making dinosaurs and lots, lots more!



 Maths is taught through a variety of activities using practical apparatus in Year R. Initially we will be focussing on using numbers in a variety of contexts such as singing rhymes and reading stories with a focus on number. We teach the children to count using one to one correspondence. This means we encourage them to count each object in turn and to move it slightly to ensure it is counted only once. Children are taught how to recognise and form their numbers, and then to order them correctly. We start counting forwards and backwards with numbers up to 10 or 20 and learn to count on from any given number (counting without starting from 1 each time is something many children find very tricky!).

We will begin to teach your child the letter sounds soon. You will receive small phonics sheets as we learn our new sounds. This is so that you can practise recognising the letter, doing the accompanying action and saying the sound with your child at home. A little each day can have such a big impact on their learning, and the children love doing the sound actions! Meanwhile lots of practice of rhyming, alliteration and hearing oral blends e.g. c-a-t would be very beneficial.



If you were unable to make the curriculum workshop to find out how we support your child with their early literacy and numeracy, power point slides should be available soon from the website.



We visit the School Library once a week. The children will choose their own library book to share with you at home. Each week they will need to have their library book in their book bag on their library day to be able to change it. Your child's library day will be displayed in their classroom windows.

P.E. sessions will take place every Wednesday and Thursday. Please ensure your child has their P.E. kit in school each week and that they are not wearing earrings. It really does make a difference to us if you have remembered to name your child's clothing – including PE kit – to prevent new clothes going astray.




We very much appreciate parents coming into school to help. If you have the time and would like to make a firm commitment to help on a permanent and regular basis after the Christmas holidays, please see your child's class teacher. (DBS checks will be necessary for all potential helpers and can be arranged for you by the school).

Please could you ensure that the children and any siblings **do not** play on the outside play equipment before or after school, as the school could be liable for any accidents and staff are unable to supervise at these times. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.



Finally, we would also like to invite you to our topic celebration event on **Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October at 2.50pm**. This is when you can come and look at your child's amazing work from their first half term at school! In the meantime, if you have any queries please speak to your child's class teacher.

Yours sincerely,

 Ellen Kennedy  
Acting Early Years Leader

 Nita Hearne  
Otter Class

 Arabelle Dunne  
Hedgehog Class