

# Year R Autumn 1 Term


## Curriculum Newsletter

10th September 2021


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 zoom calls and home 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 and Early Years Leader Mrs Kennedy and Early Years Assistants Mrs Farmer and Mrs Durman.

 **Otter Class:** Class teacher Mrs Voght and Early Years Assistants Miss Howard and Mrs Harrison

 **Hedgehog Class:** Class teacher Mrs Arnott and Early Years Assistants Miss Channel and Mrs Gibson

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 e-mail the school and request to speak to your child's teacher if you have any questions or concerns about how they are settling.

We have noticed that the children are finding it a little tricky to recognise their book bags independently, to help with this we ask that you add a little something onto their book bag to help make it individual, this could be a small keyring, ribbon or a special sticker. Adding this little touch will help them feel successful and independent when looking for their book bags.



Our first topic this half term is 'Happy to be Me' in which we talk about ourselves and our families, our likes and dislikes, and found out more about our new friends. Our second topic is 'Dinosaurs'. Throughout this topic we will be reading lots of fiction and nonfiction Dinosaur stories and taking part in our own dinosaur adventures. We will be counting and sorting dinosaurs, making dinosaurs, naming dinosaurs and testing our teacher's knowledge of the dinosaur names!



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 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, cat would be very beneficial.



We are so proud of how well the children have started their Shirley Infants School journey, they are resilient, cheerful and very helpful. We are all looking forward to a fantastic year.



Yours sincerely,



Ellen Kennedy  
Early Years Leader



Sarah Voght  
Otter Class



Mel Arnott  
Hedgehog Class