




Year R Autumn 1 Term Curriculum Newsletter

15th September 2023

Dear Families,

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 1:1 meetings 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:



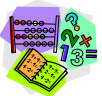
-  **Squirrel Class:** Class teacher Miss Sneddon and Early Years Assistants Miss Mantle and Mrs Preston.
-  **Otter Class:** Class teacher Miss Channell and Early Years Assistants Miss Baddhams
-  **Hedgehog Class:** Class teacher Mrs Arnott and Early Years Assistants Miss Howard, Miss Simmonds and Miss Kahn

During this half term our priority is to settle the children into their new class, develop their independence and learn the school routines. We are so proud of how the children are coming into school on their own. They settle so quickly and get to chat to their friends whilst we start our day. We have found all the information you have given us about your child very useful in planning for their transition into school. It is a joy to get to know your little ones. Please remember every child progresses at a different rate. This will be for their social and emotional development as well as their Literacy and Mathematical development. We also in the next week will be carrying out the Government directed Baseline assessment with your little one. This is a little set of activities that the staff carry out with your child on a 1:1. It is all play based or on the iPad and they have no idea what it is for. This assessment is then sent off to the DFE ready for the assessment journey. The staff enjoy the set time on an individual basis with your child and love the little chats we get to have with them. If you have any worries please ask for a call or an appointment through the school office with your class teacher. Parents evening for how your child has settled will be early on in the Autumn term.

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, dislikes, and finding 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! We are looking forward to archaeology dig.



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, make and visualise a number. We spend a long time in year R unpicking what the number is for example the number 3 can be made up of 3 different objects, three of the same objects, 2 or one object and 1 of another. This is called 'Number Sense' and is a vital skill in laying the foundations for numbers.

We will begin to teach your child the letter sounds in week 2. You will receive small phonics sheet 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. We will be sending out a separate letter of how we will be teaching your child to read and how the books will work under our new Phonics Scheme 'Little Wandle'. 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.








Our PE days are (please note that sometimes this day has to change due to timetabling):

	Wednesday
	Thursday
	Tuesday



Our Library days are (please note that sometimes this day has to change due to timetabling):

	Every other Wednesday
	Every other Tuesday
	Every other Thursday

On a Thursday afternoon different staff will teach your little ones whilst the Year R team plan for the following week. This is called PPA for the teaching staff. It is a government directed time for staff to carry out Planning. Preparation and Assessment for your children.

	Leading Miss Mantle supported by Miss Samwell
	Leading Miss Badhams supported by Mrs Eastwood
	Leading Miss Howard supported by Miss Simmonds



Please ensure you have downloaded the Marvellous Me app. You should have received your log in from the office at this point. If you have not please contact Mrs Hunt. Through this app once a week we will share with you what we have been learning in English and Maths. We will also share some star moments, Mrs Gregory and Mrs Watts will share with you if they have seen your little one for one of our Learning Behaviours. These are:

Independence, Cooperation, Perseverance, Curiosity and Kindness



We are so proud of how well the children have started their Shirley Infants School journey; they are resilient, kind and super helpful. We are all looking forward to a fantastic year together; please remember to sign up for our curriculum evening see the diary dates for details.

With the warmest welcome,



Miss Sneddon
Squirrel Class



Miss Channell
Otter Class



Mrs Arnott
Hedgehog Class

Mrs Gregory
Early Years Leader



Shirley School's Values

Kindness

Integrity

Respect