



Reception

Newsletter to parents

Autumn Term 2016

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Reception, and if you are new to Manor Fields - a very warm welcome to our school! We hope you and your children had a good summer and are ready for a busy and exciting term. It was lovely to see so many of you at the Reading Meeting yesterday, we are really looking forward to getting to know you all.

The children are already amazing us - coping so well with the demands of a full day at school as well as quickly getting used to the lunchtime routine. On Monday they all tried their very best to change for PE independently. What superstars they are!



TOPICS

We start the new school year with a topic about OURSELVES. Under this umbrella topic, we begin by focusing on settling the children into the routines of the day, getting to know each other and finding our way around the indoor and outdoor learning environment. We will be exploring 'why it is good to be me' - thinking about what makes us special, our families and our likes and dislikes.



After half term, we move on to an exciting new topic - SPARKLE AND SHINE, which will include the preparation and celebration of some important festivals! Throughout the term, we will, of course, be spending some time looking at the changes that occur in Autumn and Harvest Time, and are very excited about our Harvest Festival Assembly performance and open morning on 14th October.

NOTICES

Notices will be placed in the classroom window. Please keep a check on this as it will have copies of letters that have been sent out and other information we have to share with you.

After half term, once the children have settled, our **Parent Rota** will also be placed in the window. Please sign up if you are able to pop in for a morning or afternoon. Your help will be greatly appreciated, whether you enjoy playing with the children or carrying out some preparation jobs for us (there is plenty to do!). The children will really enjoy your company.

Please could we just remind you that if you do wish to help out on a regular basis, you will need a **Police Check Form (DBS)**, available from the office. These forms need to be completed and returned to the office along with all relevant documentation as soon as possible.

PE

We will be having our PE lessons on a Monday morning. Please could you ensure the children have their PE kits ready - blue shorts and white t-shirt. We may also take the children outside for PE and therefore a track-suit (any colour) and trainers will also be necessary. Please make sure all your child's clothes are clearly labelled, including socks, as items of clothing are often identical. For health and safety reasons, long hair should be tied back and ear-rings



removed. Many thanks.

FOREST SCHOOL - Griffin Wood



This term, the children will be visiting Griffin Wood (our on-site wooded area) on a fortnightly basis. We will let you know when this will be, once the timetable has been finalised.

On 'Griffin Wood' days, children need to come to school wearing old warm clothes (not their school uniform or jeans). As the weather turns colder, we would recommend multiple layers. We have a set of waterproof jackets and trousers for the children to use, but please send in some named wellington boots in a plastic bag (which we will keep at school).



DRINKS AND SNACK TIME



The children self-snack between 10 and 11 am. They are provided with fruit and vegetables from a government scheme and therefore will not need to bring a snack from home. Named water-bottles can be brought to school if you have not pre-ordered milk, but there is always water available throughout the day. To maintain healthy teeth, it is recommended that drinks bottles contain water rather than juice.

LUNCH TIME

We have been thrilled that the children have coped so well at lunch times. A change to our usual routine has meant that we now go into the Dining Hall before the older children arrive and those eating packed lunches sit with the children having school dinners. We have found this to be extremely successful.

LIBRARY BOOKS AND READING

This half-term, the children will bring home a library book to share with you on a Tuesday, which should be returned the following Tuesday, so please ensure the books are in their book bags on that day.

In the next couple of weeks, we will begin to issue the children with a picture book from our reading scheme in preparation for our guided reading sessions. These books do not have words, so the idea is for the child to look at the pictures and perhaps make up their own story with a little adult support. This is a super opportunity to help develop the imagination, as well as encouraging them to take clues from the pictures, which is another important skill in the process of learning to read. Each child will have a blue Reading Diary for parents and teachers to record their comments about the child's reading. Books with words will follow, when each individual child is ready.



LEARNING JOURNEYS

Throughout your child's time in Reception we will be putting together a 'Learning Journey' - a book to show their experiences and achievements throughout the year. On occasions, there may be photos of your child interacting with other children. If for any reason you would prefer not to have your child's photo in another child's Learning Journey, please let us know.

We recognise the important link between home and school and would welcome your contributions to your child's Learning Journey. Please help us to celebrate achievements at home by emailing us

via the school office (parent@manorfields.herts.sch.uk). Alternatively, you may like to pop a photo or a note into your child's book bag. Such achievements or events may include learning to ride a bike, sleeping through the night, swimming, using a knife and fork or maybe helping out at home.

PLAYGROUND AND THE BUS

Each morning we set up the playground with a range of activities for the children to enjoy. It would be extremely helpful if you could wait at the gate to be let in, so that these resources are fresh for the children to explore during outdoor learning.

At school, the children are taught not to climb onto the roof of the wooden bus in the Reception playground. We would be most grateful if you could support us by reinforcing this with your children at the beginning and end of the school day. Many thanks.

OUR MAKING AREA

The Early Years Curriculum focuses on enabling the children to become independent learners and with this in mind the learning environment is set up so that resources are easily accessible to them. In our 'Making Area', we like to provide a large variety of creative resources that the children can choose from to create their models and pictures. We would really appreciate anything you may have at home that might enhance our provision. Examples might include the following:

Large and small cardboard boxes

Kitchen roll tubes

Lids

Yoghurt pots

Buttons

Wool and ribbon

Unwanted catalogues and wildlife magazines.

Finally, most importantly, we want your child to feel safe and happy at school and have fun while they are learning. Please do not hesitate to come and see us if you have any concerns or queries. After school is probably the best time to do this. Many thanks.

Kind regards

Mrs Hind and Mrs Speak