



MIDHURST C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

Ashfield Road

Midhurst

West Sussex

GU29 9JX

Tel: 01730 813526 Fax: 01730 817233

e-mail: office@midhurst-pri.w-sussex.sch.uk

website: www.midhurst-primary-school.co.uk

Headteacher: K.Ford

Reception Summer Term Newsletter

April 2010

Dear Parents,

SUMMER TERM 2010

Welcome back to the Summer term. Our class topic this term is : Growing.

We will continue to work in the six areas of learning for the Foundation Stage as follows and daily observations will be made on the children:

Communication, Language and Literacy

Writing: It is really important that the children are holding pencils correctly when they write and this will be something that we are focusing on at the start of the term. Pencil grips may be introduced to help some children. We will be teaching correct letter formation and I would be grateful if you could follow this up too. (A sheet will be sent home soon to help with this) All children should now be able to write their own name, but it must be done correctly! Only capital letters at the start.

The children will be doing weekly news writing, writing related to topic work and class assemblies and they will also have the opportunity to write during self-selected activities for a variety of different purposes.

Phonic work: We will be having daily phonic sessions and these will be structured around the 'Letters and Sounds' phonic programme that we follow in school. I will also be covering key words which will help the children with their reading. I will be assessing the children on their phonic knowledge during the first two weeks of term and then monitoring the progress that they are making on a regular basis.

Reading: The children will be sharing a class 'Big Book' on a weekly basis and doing guided reading as part of a small group. This encourages the children to enjoy reading, to participate in discussion, share ideas and read familiar words. With a full timetable it is not possible to hear every child read each day, but we will do our best to hear them read in school as much as possible. (Thank you to any parents who are giving up precious time at home to come in and hear readers -this is much appreciated.) It would be much appreciated also if you could spend a little time each day sharing a book or listening to your child read at home. Sometimes mornings are a better time!

Please feel free to use the red log book as a means of communication and always write in it when your child has read. Even a negative comment written in it such as 'too tired to read tonight' is helpful to know!

We will be walking to the library on a fortnightly basis, weather permitting. (Starting Tuesday 27th April.

Listening: The children will have the opportunity to be part of a weekly listening group with activities related to this area of learning.

Mathematical development

Most of the maths work will be linked to topic work, such as measuring, collecting data and counting activities. However, there will also be sessions of more 'formal' maths taught which will be teacher led with the children carrying out follow up activities. An assessment of your child's progress so far will be made at the start of term.

Knowledge and Understanding of the World

Topic: As part of the topic we will be looking at different aspects related to growing such as plants, seeds, fruit and vegetables, healthy eating, exercise, babies, life cycles. We will be planting seeds and (hopefully!) liaising with the Town Council in a 'growing' project. We will also be looking at things that grow in the school environment and in the town.

ICT: The children will now work as a class in the ICT suite in preparation for Year 1. Keyboard skills will be developed and programmes used to cover work which is linked to our topic.

Creative development

This term the inside role play area will gradually be transformed into a health centre (any old bandages etc gratefully received!) and the outside playhouse into a garden centre, hopefully with a café too! Children will be able to design and make things during self selected activity times and will also participate in adult led creative activities. We hope to do collage work, paint, use pastels, make playdoh, print in different ways and do some papier mache.

The class will also cook on a weekly basis with Mrs Cobbold, one of the teaching assistants, in the school kitchen. Most of these sessions will link with healthy eating and our topic, but the occasional cake or jam tart may creep in!

Physical development

The class will continue to have weekly PE and games sessions. Please could you check PE kit to make sure that it still fits and that any new items are named. Could you also make sure that all sweatshirts and school uniform are named, including shoes.

Swimming lessons will start shortly and a separate letter will be sent out regarding these. At the moment our time slot for this is (provisionally) 11am on a Wednesday. We need parental help with changing the children after they have swum, so if you are able to help could you let us know. For safety reasons no pre-school children will be allowed in the swimming pool area.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

The biggest change that the children will have this term is getting used to me on a daily basis whilst Mrs Bellotti recovers from her operation! I do now know all of the children's names which is promising! Each day will be very busy and I am looking forward to getting to know the class even more. Please don't hesitate to come and see me if you have any concerns or questions. Apart from Tuesdays, when we have a staff meeting, the end of the day is usually better.

Assemblies: The class will join in with whole school assemblies, achiever's assembly on a Friday and Father Marcus' assembly on a Wednesday. Our class assembly will be on a Thursday and we will be using the SEAL materials to talk about getting on and how changes affect our lives. We will also be covering the story of Noah and the Ark.

Thinking about water (!) each child in the class will be given their own named water bottle. This means that they will have access to a drink throughout the day. Snack time will still continue before first play each morning

This term we will be encouraging the children to become more independent in readiness for their next school year. From the beginning of term the class will be collected from the bottom of the steps (where the children line up after playtimes, so they are used to this routine already).

Therefore, please could all final hugs, kisses, waves be given before 8.55am. Parents hanging around in the playground for another last wave at the window can be incredibly unsettling for a child.

Thank you for your support,
Yours sincerely,

Mrs S Pickett