

Reception Newsletter

Autumn 1 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

A very warm welcome to pupils, children and staff. We hope the first week at Old Palace has been a positive experience for everyone. We are excited to work with you and your child and we're pleased to be a part of the children's learning journeys. This half term is very much focussed getting the children to settle into their new environment and adapt to the school routine. We thank you and appreciate your support and cooperation in this crucial part of your child's school experience.

Staffing: Mrs L Rahman (Assistant Headteacher—Leading Foundation Stage)

Miss L Manzi Class teacher (RM) Miss N Begum Class teacher (RB)

Support Staff: Miss Carroll (Nursery Nurse) Miss Sue (Nursery Nurse)

School times: School starts at 9.00am and finishes at 3.20pm for Reception pupils. Please collect your child from reception first, before collecting their older siblings, if any. If parents are running late, children will be sent to the office.

Spare Clothes: Please bring a set of spare clothes for your child and leave this on their peg with their name clearly marked on the bag. This will allow us to attend to children quickly without the need to call you. Please ensure your child's uniform is clearly labelled with their full name.

Also, please put your child's name on ALL of their clothing (coats, shirts, jumpers, trousers, etc). This will help to prevent any misplaced items of clothing.

Holiday booklets: Parents who attended our induction meeting in July will have been given a holiday booklet which contained a range of activities to help support your child with early literacy, reading and number skills. Those who still have them and completed it, could you please bring them into school and hand in to your child's class teacher.

Baseline Assessments: This half term the teachers will be carry out a baseline assessment on your child, this is to find out the level of skills, knowledge and social awareness each child has on entry to Reception. The Baseline will be discussed at the teacher parent consultation meetings in Autumn 2.

Friday Reading: Every Friday afternoon between 2.50pm 3.05pm you are invited to come into your child's class and read to them. These sessions are to help promote the love of books and reading for enjoyment. We welcome parents to bring their own books from home and if you are keen to do whole class story telling, please let the class teachers know in advance, so they can accommodate that for you. **Friday reading session will start From Friday 21st September** . We look forward to you joining us in reading!

School Lunch: Please let the class teacher know at the start of the week if your child is changing over to different lunch i.e. school lunch, packed lunch or home dinners. It is expected that the child must remain on the same mode of lunch throughout the week. A Healthy packed lunch must be provided which contains: Starchy foods, protein, dairy & fruit/veg. Hot packed lunch can be dropped off at lunch times in the office with prior arrangements.

Topic: This half term our topic focus is 'Ourselves'. Children will be learning about People and Communities, including people who help us. They will be looking at their identity and talking about their families. Children will be exploring their five senses and learning about healthy living. As part of our topic on ourselves, could we ask if your child could bring a family photo, to help them with their learning, we will add this to their wow folder.

We will organize a short walk in the local area, including Bob's park, this is to help the children understand about the local area and where we live.

Maths: This half term we will be teaching children number skills using Numicon. Numicon is a resource designed to support and develop children's early number skills. Children will be learning to count 1—20 and identify the Numicon to the correct number symbol. They will learn to do problem solving in practical contexts involving numbers 1-20.

English: In English children will be learning to develop their speaking and listening skills through story telling. Each week the teachers plan using a core text and children will be retelling the story using a story map. They will be in whole class phonics this half term, children will be consolidating Phase 1 phonics then moving to Phase 2 phonics, which will be focused on teaching the following sounds: s;a;t;p;i;n they will begin to blend and segment CVC words using these sounds.

Workshops: We will be organizing a Phonics workshop and a Trip volunteer workshop.

We haven't yet confirmed the dates yet, but we will send out text messages and posters will go on the parent notice board to inform you once its confirmed.

Trip volunteer workshop:

This workshop is for all parents and carers who are willing and able to accompany the school group to educational school visits. It is expected that all volunteers must attend one of the volunteer workshops to help them understand the role and responsibilities of a volunteers on school trips. If you would like to accompany your child you must give name to Forida or Shelly (Parent support workers).

Regrettably we are unable to take every parent/carer who expresses their interest to accompany their child/ren on school trips. As a school to make it fair & transparent Forida and Shelly draw out the names in the Friday coffee mornings of the parents who have put their names forward.

Homework

A lot of parents have been querying about homework for this half term. As they are settling, our main focus will be to ensure children are familiar with the routine of their classroom (including lunch time, Maths and Literacy sessions, circle time), school rules and supporting children in building relationships and confidence.

We will however, be issuing weekly key words and half termly homework booklets for you to support your child at home.

Key words: It is a national expectation that every child in Reception knows all 48 key words by the end of the year. To encourage this, every week we will be providing you with one key word so you can practise it at home with your child. Please encourage them to read, spell and write the key word from memory. We will send out the key word folder each week, every Friday.

We will also provide each child with their own name card to encourage name writing, recognition and formation. The name card is to keep at home for them to practice with.

Homework Booklet: Children will be given a homework booklet with activities to support their learning at home. It is essential that children are encouraged to complete this and returned in the first week back of the new half term.

Reading books: Every Friday your child will receive a story book of their choice, It is very important that you read with your child **every day** and children become familiar with stories. Spring term is when we will begin to send out levelled reading books.

Books need to be returned every Friday in a book bag along with the key words, in order for your child to receive a new set. Unfortunately, books won't be changed if the original book is missing, damaged or your child has not brought in their book bag. There is a charge of £5 for any lost or damaged books.

Pupil Premium

FREE SCHOOL MEALS

Just a reminder, if you or your husband/partner is in receipt of income support, job seekers allowance, pension credits or have an income below £15,190 per year, you may be eligible to apply for Free School Meals.

You can claim for Free School Meals by completing a claim form available online from the school's website or by telephoning the benefits service on 020 7364 5001.

Please use this link below:

[https://benefitforms.towerhamlets.gov.uk/VictoriaForms/Viewer-VicForms.asp?user=anon&Form=Free%20School%20Meals%20\(1.0\).wdf](https://benefitforms.towerhamlets.gov.uk/VictoriaForms/Viewer-VicForms.asp?user=anon&Form=Free%20School%20Meals%20(1.0).wdf)

Notices:

Please ensure you keep your personal details such as mobile and landline numbers up to date with the school office. Any changes must be informed immediately to the school office. Also, if there are any changes to your child's collection list please let the school office know immediately. This will minimise any misunderstandings and distress to the child as staff will be unable to release any children with anyone who is not been stated on the collection list authorised by the primary carer.

Medication

If your child is asthmatic, you must bring in an asthma pump to leave in school together with a completed asthma card, which can be obtained from the school office.

The school is only permitted to administer medication prescribed by the GP and parents must complete a medical consent form before any medicine is sent to school for administering.

Please let us know if your child has any allergies and send in any medication that needs to be kept in school for use and when needed.

Accident and incident slips:

In the unfortunate occasions when a child incurs a minor injury, the child will be sent to the medical room for medical attention provided by a trained first aider. The first aider will assess the injury and if the injury is severe then parents will be called immediately. All other injuries the child is sent back to the class and the staff within the year group will monitor them. You will receive a medical slip to notify of the minor injury your child had incurred. Please also note that slips are not given out for every injury unless its needed, but the child's entry to medical room is logged into a medical book for our records.

Useful websites to use for ideas and educational games to help your child at home:

- www.busythings.co.uk
- www.phonicsplay.co.uk
- www.bbc.co.uk/schools/websites/eyfs
- www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/stories

