

Autumn 2017

Dear Parents and Carers

This email will provide you with information about the coming term. Shortly you will be able to find a topic map on the school website outlining the topics areas for learning this term.

Communication and Language

There will be an emphasis this term on developing language and speech. Throughout the day we will be encouraging the children to engage in discussion and use a range of vocabulary and self-expression. Children will have opportunities to ask and answer questions relating to a number of topics, expressing themselves effectively. We will also be widening the children's understanding of discussion by demonstrating the importance of listening. We hope that all children will grow in confidence to contribute to group and class discussions comfortably.

In order to support your child at home we would ask that you talk as much as possible about their day at school. This could be during cooking experiences, family meal times or at story time.

Reading and Writing

This term we will be focussing on early reading and writing skills. We will be teaching simple sounds and encouraging the children to blend from the beginning. The children will develop their sight vocabulary – to read short words such as the, go, I. The children know these words as 'red words.' When writing they will be asked to listen to the sounds in words and to write what they can hear. We will also focus on the correct letter formation of lower case letters. Name writing (first and surname) will be ongoing throughout the term. It is important that the children practise writing their names at home.

Children will choose a library book to take home on a **Wednesday**. Once a child has begun to blend, reading books will be changed regularly. Each child will receive a reading record for you to record comments.

Homework will be emailed out to parents on a **Friday** and we ask it is returned on **Wednesday** along with the library book.

Supporting your child's learning

Please use these ideas to support your child when reading their books with you at home.

- When reading, remind them to treat books with respect
- Encourage them to point to words and letters
- To follow the text from left to right
- Ask your child questions about the story
- Encourage them to talk about the pictures
- Help them re-tell the story to you

Maths

The children will focus on number recognition, counting in order and counting sets of objects. We will do work on 2D shape as well as beginning to understand simple written addition and acting this out practically. Please see the topic map for more detail. Our maths sessions also include naming the months of the year, the days of the week and the date.

Supporting your child's mathematical learning at home:

- Singing number rhymes
- Counting, for example using fingers
- Recognising numbers
- Looking for shapes in the environment
- Saying the days of the week, months of the year
- Allowing your children to look at and ask questions about coins

Understanding the World

The children will have free access to construction resources and will be encouraged to design, build and construct various models relating to the themes. We have a wide range of technology to enhance the children's learning and will be beginning to teach about simple programming. Cooking will be regular feature, often on a Friday morning, where we will also discuss the importance of food safety and hygiene.

Physical Development

This term the children will be having indoor PE, which will be taught by a specialist PE teacher. He teaches physical development skills through a range of creative approaches, including storytelling. This will take place in either the Main Site or the Scout Hall on **Monday afternoons**. The children will require their PE kit, please ensure all items (including socks) are named.

Please note:

Outdoor play is fundamental to the children's physical development. We encourage the children to explore our outdoor area where they have access to learning opportunities that are not always available in the classroom environment.

We are extremely lucky this year as we have secured a wonderful garden space on Copleston Road. The children will visit once a week, Velvet class on a Tuesday and Silk class on a Thursday. On these days please make sure your child has appropriate outdoor footwear and a waterproof jacket. In wetter weather if you wish to send welly boots or an all-in-one waterproof suit, you are more than welcome to. If your child is attending After School Owls on their garden day a change of uniform (including clean shoes) is advisable.

This term the children will be provided with free access to scissors, rulers, paint brushes and other equipment to develop their fine motor control.

We will continue to encourage the children to recognise the importance of keeping healthy in a variety of ways, through diet, physical exercise and hygiene. Please encourage your children to wash their hands before eating and after using the toilet at home.

Expressive Arts and Design

Children will develop their representational skills through free painting and drawing as well as through observational work. They will be using different media to experiment with colour and texture.

Our children will participate in specialist music and singing lessons. Gennie, a wonderful clarinettist from the Southwark Music Service will teach music on a Tuesday (Silk) and Thursday (Velvet), and Miss Sprakes will take singing lessons throughout the week. Singing is a staple of our everyday teaching, so expect to learn lots of new songs from your children! During these sessions, the children will have opportunities to experiment with finding different sounds that can be made with a selection of musical instruments from different groups. They will also be learning to match movements to music.

There will be continued access to imaginative play areas, including the role play area and small world resources including the train set, animals, garage and underwater world.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Through carpet times we will be focusing on following rules and working together a team. Our topic for assemblies this term is 'What does it mean to be a Belhamite?'

We will be celebrating the festivals, Harvest, Diwali and Christmas. Children will be participating in activities relating to these festivals. It is important that children are aware of different faiths as this encourages them to value and respect one another's cultures and beliefs. Immersed in all curriculum areas there is a focus on sharing, turn-taking, personal hygiene and independence.

Volunteers

We are always on the look out for regular volunteers to support with reading in the classroom and our trips to the Copleston Garden. Please let the office know if you would like to volunteer.

There will also be opportunities for parents who are unable to make a regular commitment, to accompany on school trips. Details to follow.

Reminders

- It is vital that you let the school know if you are unable to collect your child from school. You can do this by speaking to the class teacher, phone or email to inform us of who will be collecting your child.
- Please ensure that your child brings their book bag to school every day.
- Please ensure that all items of clothing, including PE Kits are **clearly labelled** with your child's name.
- Please remember that staff are always available before and after school to answer any questions.

Kind regards,

Miss Sprakes

Miss López

Miss Hogg