

Kindergarten Newsletter

September 2020

We hope you've all had a lovely summer and would like to welcome you all back to Kindergarten for an exciting new school year. We extend a huge, warm welcome to all of the new children joining us this year and hope you are looking forward to the school year as much as we are. Although some of our routines may be slightly different due to Covid restrictions, we still aim to ensure that our sessions run as normally as possible.



Early Years Foundation Stage

At The Ridge Kindergarten, we have a commitment to 'learning through play'. We provide extensive play opportunities that will enable children to develop a range of skills with a particular focus on their physical development, communication and language, and personal, social and emotional development. Morning children will also have a Phonics, Maths and Talk for Writing input during each session.

We have a particular focus on the following:

Phonics - Developing listening skills, Identifying environmental sounds, songs and rhymes, using our bodies and instruments to make sounds.

Maths - A good knowledge around numbers to 5 and counting out objects, beginning to write numbers, shape recognition, identifying colours, using and understanding positional language.

Talk for Writing - Each half term we will have a particular focus on a story. This will underpin most of the learning we do. We will learn to retell each story using actions and then begin to change parts of the story to make up our own! This term's stories are Stuck in the Mud and The Gingerbread Man.

Rhyme of the week - Each week we will have a focused nursery rhyme, which we will practice. Please see the rhyme for the week on our Kindergarten door. We aim for children to have a large bank of known nursery rhymes by the time they move to Reception.

Any opportunity you have to practice these skills at home will be greatly appreciated and support the work we do at Kindergarten.

Kinetic Letters

At this level, it involves the children strengthening their bodies using animal positions such as the gorilla, meerkat, stone lion, lizard and penguin. We are sure that as the children learn them they will show you! We also use a range of exercises and writing implements to help children develop strength and control in their arms, wrists and hands.

Further information about the EYFS can be found at www.foundationyears.org.uk

Further information and early phonics activities can be found at <http://www.letters-and-sounds.com/phase-1.html>

Kindergarten Fund

We kindly ask for a contribution to our Kindergarten Fund of £1 per week. This allows us to purchase healthy snacks such as cucumber, raisins and other fruit that our children have access to daily. We can also purchase extra resources for our learning environment such as crafting, plants, seeds etc. Please pass your contribution onto a member of staff in an envelope where possible. Thank you for your cooperation.



Learning Journals

Every child has a 'Learning Journal' in Kindergarten. This is a biography of their journey through their pre-school years and contains observations, photographs, anecdotes and children's 'work' etc. These will be emailed to you at points throughout the year, so please ensure we have your correct email address. We welcome contributions from home such as sharing with us a special achievement, the arrival of a new baby, a holiday, a new experience...the list is endless! These can be emailed to key workers, given to staff on 'News from Home,' or if a particularly outstanding moment, on a 'WOW' sheet which are available in the entrance. A member of staff can make these available to you should you wish, please just let us know.



Reminders

Pump bags

All children require pumps and a spare change of clothes. These should be in a named, draw-string bag, which can be left on their peg. We have some 'Ridge' pump bags available at a cost of £4.50. If your child is still in nappies, please also ensure we have plenty of these and any particular wipes you wish us to use. We ask that pump bags remain at Kindergarten to help limit the amount being brought between home and school.



Outdoor clothing

As we're sure you're aware, the weather will soon begin to change. Please ensure your child wears appropriate clothing and footwear as we access the outdoor area each session. You may wish to provide wellies, which can also be stored in a bag on your child's peg. Please ensure **ALL** of your child's clothing and footwear is clearly labelled with their name.

Drinks bottles

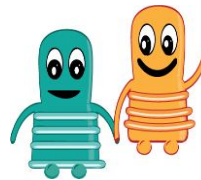
We are currently asking that all children bring a plastic bottle filled with plain water and labelled with their name. Please ensure this is brought into Kindergarten each day.

Absence

Please complete an absence form if you know your child will not be attending a session (e.g. medical appointment, holiday). If your child is unable to attend due to illness, please telephone us on Kindergarten's direct line. 01384 818803. Please ask a member of staff should you require an absence form.

Fees

If you pay for your child's sessions, fees are £12.00 for mornings (3hours) and £10.00 for afternoons (2.5hours) These can be paid weekly or monthly, in cash or by cheque (made payable to DMBC), prior to your child attending the sessions. Thank you.



Key Worker

The role of your child's key worker is to 'look out for' their key children during their time in the setting and get to know them and their family members well. They will also help to ensure that the child's learning and care is tailored to meet their individual needs. You are very welcome to contact your child's key worker via email or speak to them prior to or at the end of a session. Please be aware that we very much operate an 'open door' policy and you are welcome to speak to any member of staff.

Staff contacts

We welcome shared information from home - 'wow moments,' home learning or anything you feel you would like to ask or share with your child's key person. These can be emailed to staff at the following addresses.

Claire Burley

cburley@ridge.dudley.sch.uk

Amanda Collins

acollins@ridge.dudley.sch.uk

Sonia Spink

sspink@ridge.dudley.sch.uk

