

Saltwood Church of England Primary School

Class R Newsletter - Autumn Term 2019

Wednesday 4 September

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to Class R! I hope your child has had a positive start to their first year at 'big school'.

Your child has been busy getting to know their new teachers, exploring their new classroom and school resources as well as establishing new routines. They have had lots of fun with their friends in the classroom and outdoor area and have explored the big playground too!

Our first topic this term is 'Me and my Family'. This topic provides opportunities for us to get to know your child and for the children to get to know each other and their new school. We will discuss routines, set up classroom rules and talk about appropriate behaviour for school. They will take part in many speaking and listening activities, finding out about each other's families, interests, likes and dislikes. They will paint, draw and label pictures of family members and will have lots of opportunities to develop their emergent skills in reading, writing and numeracy.

This topic provides many opportunities for your child to develop each area of learning as set out in the Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage:

Area of learning	Themes to explore
Communication and Language	Speaking and listening. Taking turns in talking. Focusing attention and maintaining concentration.
Personal, Social and Emotional Development	Developing confidence and independence. Becoming familiar with rules and routines. Making friends, sharing and taking turns. Beginning to be able to manage their own feelings and behaviour.
Physical Development	Fine motor control - developing an effective pencil grip to form letters carefully. Gross motor control- moving freely for pleasure and with confidence in a range of ways.
Literacy	Joining in with stories, rhymes and songs. Writing their name and simple familiar words. Recognising their name and other simple familiar words. Beginning to learn the letter sounds.
Numeracy	Counting songs. Numbers 1-10. Counting groups of objects. More and less. Simple 2D shapes. Patterns.
Expressive Arts and Design	Role play. Exploring mixing and changing colours. Model making.
Understanding the world	Similarities and differences in relation to friends or family.
Religious Education	I am Special. Harvest Festival.

In the Early Years pupils are encouraged to contribute to the planning of topics, activities and role play areas so that learning is based on their own interests. This means that the planning of learning themes and topics is very flexible. Before starting a new topic I will consider what I have observed the children showing enthusiasm for. I will also have a discussion with the children about what they would like to learn about next and base new topics around their current interests.

A few reminders:

In the morning- Now that your child has got used to our morning routine please help them to develop their independence by saying goodbye to them at the classroom door and leaving them to put their own bookbag, water bottle, lunchbox etc away.

Name labels - Please can I remind you to name all of your child's clothing, shoes, P.E kits, food containers, lunch boxes and water bottles. Many jumpers and other un-named items end up in the lost property each term, causing many parents extra expense. PE kits should be in school by now.

Snack - A healthy snack is provided for your child each day. Please provide your child with a bottle of water daily. You may want to provide your child with an extra snack for playtime. This should be a piece of fruit or vegetable and should be clearly labelled with your child's name. Your child can place their snack and water bottle on the snack table in the morning. Please help your child to get in to the habit of doing this each morning independently.

Reading- Your child will begin to bring new reading books home over the next few weeks. Please share these together and record your comments in their red reading record book. Please ensure your child brings their book in their bookbag to school every day.

Show and Tell- This will be carried out in small groups on a Friday each term. Please check your child's Family Learning book for the timetable for the term (I will highlight which colour group your child is in case they cannot remember). The Family Learning book will be sent home on a Friday and collected in again on the following Thursday each week.

Toys- Please encourage your child to leave all toys at home, we cannot take responsibility for the loss of any toys they bring to school from home.

If you have any questions at all please feel free to come and speak to me after school. If you would prefer, you can write me a note and hand it to me in the morning. I will then do my best to see you after school that day or at another suitable time.

I look forward to seeing you all at the Orientation session on Tuesday 10 September at 3.30pm.

Many thanks

Mrs J Ongley
Class R Teacher