








Reception Newsletter Autumn 2017

We hope you all had a lovely summer and are pleased to welcome you to the autumn term 2017. An especially warm welcome to the families who are new to Trotts Hill. We hope you settle in very quickly and please do not hesitate to ask if there is anything you are unsure of. I am Claire Mandel and I am your child's teacher this year. During this term we will cover the seven areas of the Foundation Stage curriculum, following the interests of the children. Initially we will focus on settling in and learning the rules and routines of the unit. We will then begin to focus on the topic of 'Homes.' We will also learn about 'Autumn' and the celebrations of Harvest, Diwali, Fireworks Night and Christmas. Below is a brief description of what the children will be learning in the areas of the Foundation Stage curriculum. Please look out for notices in the windows and book bags for requests linked to the topics from time to time. I will teach the class Monday to Thursday and Miss Taylor will teach on a Friday.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development	Communication and Language and Literacy	Maths
<p>The focus is on the children settling in and becoming used to the rules and routines of the unit. We will be concentrating on sharing, caring for others and feelings.</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>	<p>The children will be developing the skills of speaking, listening, reading and writing through stories and rhymes linked to the topic. They will also be learning the sounds of the letters of the alphabet in daily phonics lessons. We strongly encourage you to share books and practise key words with your child daily.</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>	<p>Learning in maths will include mental calculations, practical tasks and number rhymes to consolidate counting. The children will learn about shape and apply their knowledge in this area through making shape pictures. They will also work on sorting objects in order of length, weight and size. Problem solving will form a large part of our maths sessions and children will be encouraged to explain the strategies they have used to find a solution.</p>
Understanding the World	Expressive Arts and Design	Physical Development
<p>Knowledge and Understanding of the World includes  science, history, geography, ICT and R.E. activities. Through our topics the children will learn about themselves and their families. We will also look at animal families. In the second half of term they will find out about 'Autumn' and celebrations including Diwali and Christmas.</p>	<p>Much of our art will also be topic based. The children will be working with a variety of media and exploring different techniques including painting a picture of themselves and their family, focusing on choosing the correct colours. They will sing songs across the curriculum and begin to use instruments to create long and short sounds. They will also develop their imagination through role play.</p>	<p>The children's physical development is encouraged through daily fine motor activities such as threading and writing and also in the outside environment using equipment such as balls and bikes. In P.E lessons we are focusing on the use of space and footwork skills. The children will also benefit from specialist games teaching from 'Rising Stars' every Wednesday morning and specialist dance teaching on Thursday afternoons.</p>

Changing Books

A group of six children will be heard read each day to ensure all thirty children are heard over the week. Mrs O'Brien is also coming in to hear readers on a Friday afternoon and we have a parent helper so we aim to hear children at school twice a week. It is very important your child has their book bag at school **every day** so they always have it when it is their turn to read. We also encourage you to read with your child at home as frequently as possible and for you to sign the reading diary every time you do! Library books will continue to be changed on Friday afternoons. In addition we will be introducing guided reading sessions in which children are taught the skills of reading in a small group.

Wow Moments	P.E Kits	Water Bottles
Also we like to celebrate the children's achievements and progress in their learning, so if your child impresses you with something they have done, please write it on a slip of paper and we will add it to their learning journals.	The children need their P.E kits in school on Wednesdays and Thursdays. They should have a P.E T-shirt and shorts. PLEASE ENSURE ALL CLOTHES, COATS, SHOES AND BAGS ARE CLEARLY NAMED	Please can children in Reception bring a named bottle of water (no juice etc) into school every day. The bottle should have a sports top for ease of drinking. This ensures your children can drink freely during the day.
Library Book Time	Phonics Parent's Meeting	Outdoor play
Every Friday beginning from Friday 22nd September we will open the doors to parents at 2:30pm. This is so you can come into the classroom to share books with your child and choose a book together to take home to share. It will also be a time for you to chat to members of staff about how your child is getting on and an opportunity to look at their Learning Journal. If you are not able to make this due to work commitments a member of staff will share books with your child and help them to choose a book to take home.	Thursday 21st September at 3pm I am holding a meeting in the reception classroom to give you important information about reading with your child and how we teach the children phonics. It will also be an opportunity to discuss how your child is settling in. If you are not able to make this meeting please let a member of staff know so that we can give you the information at an alternative time or by letter or email.	Please can you make sure your child is prepared for outside learning in all weather. Please apply sun cream before school and provide them with sunhat for hot days. Please make sure children have suitable outdoor footwear and not sandals or crocs as these can be dangerous. Please provide wellies and a waterproof coat with hood on wet days. 
Homework	Parent Partnership	
Homework will be set weekly. This will involve a phonics activity, a maths activity and something linked to our topic. Homework will always be set on a Wednesday and due in on a Monday . It is essential that your child reads every night and their reading diary is completed.	 <p>We always welcome your input, views and ideas and value all questions, so whatever it is you want to come and talk about with us we will always do our best to make ourselves available before and after school. We also would appreciate your help within the class. If you have a secret talent or love of something, whether gardening or cooking, sewing or painting we would like to know!</p>	

Starting school is an exciting experience, although some children take time to adjust to the change in their routine and will inevitably find the first few weeks exhausting! I am sure that the children will have a very positive and successful time in Reception and we are really looking forward to working with you and your children during the course of the year.

Mrs Mandel