

Early Years Newsletter

September 2017



Welcome!

Welcome to all of the new children and your families. We have enjoyed the first few weeks settling in and getting to know each other. All of the children have settled well to school life and are making some great relationships with their peers and teachers. We have seen some wonderful examples of play, taking turns, and working collaboratively together. The children have really valued each others ideas and opinions, it has been truly lovely to observe and play alongside them.

Donations.

Do you have any old, unwanted natural coloured throws and cushions or plants that you could donate to school? We are trying to create a natural, homely feel to the school. The calming environment is beginning to have a huge impact on the children's well being and learning.

School website.

Please keep an eye on our school website. www.fishergateschool.com as we are continually updating our learning area with children's work and achievements as well as their current interests. We also put on the website what we are learning about every week in phonics and maths, so for those of you that don't get to come in or have time to chat - you can still see how you can be supporting your child at home. Please also follow Friends of Fishergate's Facebook page and the school's Twitter feed @Fishergate_Sch

Wednesdays

On a Wednesday morning before the start of the school day we have our Early Years team meetings. Occasionally these may over run slightly and it may be a little later than 8:30am that the door opens. Please bear with us, thank you.

Every week on Wednesday mornings we go to our Forest School (located on the school's back field). Please can your children come ready in their waterproofs and welly boots, we go out whatever the weather!

Wednesday afternoons is PE and music. PE kit should contain: *Plain t-shirt (white, navy, red), *Shorts/leggings/jogging pants (white, navy, black, red), *White socks, *Plimsolls/trainers.

PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE REMEMBER TO LABEL ALL CLOTHING AND BELONGINGS.

Safeguarding

Our ultimate aim is to safeguard and keep our children in Early Years protected at all times. Only DBS checked staff and volunteers can be left alone with children. All visitors and placement students are supervised at all times. We let the children attend the bathroom on their own to promote their independence and confidence. As part of our continued policy updates we are asking that any parents/carers taking children to the toilet could stand outside of the bathroom and respect the privacy of all other children. Please speak to any of the Early Years staff if you have any queries or questions regarding this.

The NSPCC have some good resources online for you to talk about keeping safe with your children. <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/underwear-rule>. In school we continually talk about making sure that children know to go into a toilet cubicle alone, and keeping the area covered by their pants/knickers private to themselves.

www.espresso.co.uk

This is a useful educational website that we sometimes use in school but can also be accessed at home with the following login details; espresso username: student24256 password: pupilfp. Once logged in then you are given access to a number of phonics and maths games/challenges. If you have any queries or questions regarding this then please speak to Miss Dewhurst or Mrs Wilson.

Learning from home

We love to hear about all the fantastic things that your child does out of school. Feel free to bring in any pictures and achievements so we can share them with everybody in our class and add to our 'learning from home' board. This then contributes to your child's learning journey book, which is yours to take and treasure at the end of their time in the Early Years Unit. We have some Golden Moments sheets for you to document special moments, please help yourself to fill out and return to the Learning from home box in the large classroom.

Rewards.

We are continually trying hard to reinforce good behaviour in the Early years unit and reward them generously! You may have heard your children talking about Dojos...well these are points that each of the children receive for following our good behaviour rules; being kind, sharing, good work etc. When a child reaches 10 points and every 10 more after, they get to have a dip in the treat box! We also have Head teacher's Awards, a child will receive one of these for exceptional work or behaviour. Our Head teacher's celebrations are every Friday afternoon at 2:45pm.

Carecent charity day.

This Friday - 21st September - is non uniform day. Carecent is the local homeless charity that we have supported for the last 5 years. The children are invited to come in non uniform, dressed as anything beginning with the letter C! In return we ask that you bring in donations for the charity on the day and leave them in the lower hall. These can be: non perishable food, adult clothing or toiletries. Thank you.

Things you may need to know!

- PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE label all of your child's clothing - including all footwear - first name and surname and keep checking that it hasn't faded after washing. All items of unnamed clothing will go into the early years lost property basket and then transferred to the KS1 lost property box every Monday which is situated in the lower hall.
- Please do not let your children bring their own toys/comforters into school. It is causing a lot of distress for them and others when they go missing or another child takes it.
- Your child does not require to bring in their own snack from home, we provide a healthy snack and a drink of milk for each child, every day.
- If your child is absent from school it is mandatory for parents to phone the school's absence line, leave a message stating your child's class and the reason for their absence. If your child is vomiting or has diarrhoea then your child will need to stay away from school for 48hrs from the last bout of sickness or diarrhoea as per our school sickness policy.
- We are a **NUT FREE** school. This is due to some pupils in school having nut allergies. Direct or indirect exposure to nuts can cause an acute - sometimes life threatening - allergic reaction. As such we remind you that nut products are not to be brought into school. This includes items brought in for packed lunches, snacks or treats. Please be vigilant as many brunch/chocolate bars contain peanuts, hazelnuts and almonds. Thank you very much in advance for your cooperation.
- We know that some parents are new to 'school life' and the general routine. If there is anything you ever need to know or you have any questions/queries please do speak to a member of the Early Years Team or Helen/Emma in the school office.
- Please always remember to send your child with a coat, our English weather is so unpredictable and we will go out in all weathers to play.

Family photo.

We are building on our family tree, please can you bring in a photo of your child with their family for us to display.

We thank you for your full support with helping, ensuring that all the children settle well into school.