

Kindergarten Newsletter

Summer Term 2019

Here we are! The final term of the school year and we honestly don't know where the time has gone! What a fun-filled, busy year we have all had. It will soon be time for us to say goodbye to some of our children beginning Reception and then welcome back some of our other children for another exciting year at Kindergarten. However, before all of that there's a lot more fun to be had...



Early Years Foundation Stage

We have a commitment to 'learning through play' at The Ridge Kindergarten. We provide 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 also have a Phonics, Maths and Talk for Writing input during each session. This term we have a particular focus on the following:

Maths - Continuing to recognise numbers to and beyond 10, counting out objects, beginning to look at totals of numbers, know that when a group of objects is rearranged it will still be the same amount.

Phonics - Rhyming and alliteration, learning set 1, 2 and 3 sounds, beginning to blend sounds together to make words.

This term we also have more of a focus on children holding a pencil correctly and being able to recognise and write their name.

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

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

Further information about Kinetic letters can be found on our school website. www.theridge.sch.life

Further information and early phonics activities can be found at <http://www.letters-and-sounds.com/phase-1.html>
<http://www.letters-and-sounds.com/phase-2.html>
<https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk>

Talk for Writing

In Kindergarten, the children have really enjoyed the Talk for Writing approach. It has provided them with the opportunity to develop their vocabulary, become more confident with story telling and we have even been able to change parts of stories and tell our own versions!

This term, our Talk for Writing story is The Three Billy Goats Gruff. This story will underpin a lot of our other learning in Kindergarten. We will be looking at:

- retelling the story using actions and storytelling language.
- size, and using language such as big, small, short and tall.
- the process of growing, what plants need and growing some of our own plants.
- different traditional tales that follow a similar pattern.
- describing characters and settings in stories

Parent 'Pop Ins'

For our Nursery age children, we will be organising some time for you to come and spend some time with your child in Kindergarten. You will be able to experience a focus session as your child does, complete an activity with them and have the opportunity for an informal chat with members of staff.

We feel these sessions are more beneficial to our older children as in the past some of our younger children have become quite upset when it's been time for their grown up to leave.



Reminders

Pump bags

All children require pumps and a spare change of clothes. These should be in a named bag, which can be left on their peg. We have some 'Ridge' pumpbags 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.

Outdoor clothing

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. As the weather begins to get warmer, please apply sun cream prior to your child attending Kindergarten. Please ensure ALL of your child's clothing and footwear is clearly labeled with their name.

Absence

Please complete an absence form if your child will not be attending a session. If your child is unable to attend due to illness, please telephone us on Kindergarten's direct line. 01384 818803. Absence forms can be found in the entrance.

Safeguarding Procedures

Just a reminder about mobile phones. As part of Kindergarten's 'Empty Pocket Policy' mobile phones are **not** allowed to be used by anyone within Kindergarten. This includes parents/carers. Please do not hesitate to speak to us if you require further information about this safeguarding procedure.

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.

Car Parking

Please note the car park is for staff use only. Please do **not** use the car park when bringing or collecting your child. This is for the safety of all the children in school.

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, breadsticks and yoghurts 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 and ensure you tick off your child's name on the list situated on the entrance table.

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

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