

# Kindergarten Newsletter

January 2020

Happy New Year to you all! We hope you've all had a lovely Christmas break. We would like to extend a warm welcome to all of our new children that are joining us this month. There are many exciting things happening in Kindergarten again this term and we hope you're looking forward to it as much as we are!



## 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 and maths input during each session. We have a focus on the following:

**Maths** - Recognising numbers to at least 10 and counting out, shape recognition, identifying colours, using and understanding positional language.

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

*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](http://www.foundationyears.org.uk)

Further information about Kinetic letters can be found on our school website. [www.theridge.sch.life](http://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>

## 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 intervals throughout the year so please ensure we have your 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 given to staff on 'News from home,' or if a particularly outstanding moment, on a 'WOW' sheet which are available on the parent board. If you would prefer you could also email them to your child's key person. You will find their email address over the page.

The role of your child's key person is to 'look out for' their key children during their time in the setting and get to know them and their family members well. This ensures that all children are respected and valued as an individual and avoids the danger of children becoming anonymous in a large group setting. Each term, you will be invited to attend an open afternoon where staff and parents have the opportunity to discuss children's learning and progress.

## Talk for Writing

Our Talk for Writing story this half term is 'Baby Bear and the Bee.' You will find this story on the main Kindergarten door should you wish to read it yourself. If you would like a copy, please let a member of staff know. The children will learn to tell the story using actions and pictures to jog their memory. From this, they will then be encouraged to change elements of the story in order to create their own.

The children will be fully immersed in this story in all aspects of their environment, from Math's and Phonics games to role playing in our bear cave.

We also have a 'Rhyme of the Week' focus. These rhymes are also displayed on the main door so you are able to practice these at home.



## Reminders

### Pump bags

All children need 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

As we're sure you're aware, the weather is beginning 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 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.

### Muddy Shoes

Please help us to keep a clean carpet for the children to sit on at Circle Time by checking your child's shoes before they come into Kindergarten, especially if they have been on the school field - something we have asked the children to refrain from! Thank you for your co-operation.



## 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. Thank you.

## 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.

Mrs Burley

[cburley@ridge.dudley.sch.uk](mailto:cburley@ridge.dudley.sch.uk)

Mrs Boucker

[nboucker@ridge.dudley.sch.uk](mailto:nboucker@ridge.dudley.sch.uk)

Mrs Collins

[acollins@ridge.dudley.sch.uk](mailto:acollins@ridge.dudley.sch.uk)

Mrs Spink

[sspink@ridge.dudley.sch.uk](mailto:sspink@ridge.dudley.sch.uk)

