

Kindergarten Newsletter

September 2019

We hope you've all had a fantastic summer, and would like to welcome you all back to Kindergarten for an exciting year. We extend a huge, warm welcome to all of the new children joining us this year and hope you are looking forward to the school year as much as we are.



Early Years Foundation Stage

At The Ridge Kindergarten, we have a commitment to 'learning through play'. We provide extensive 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 will also have a Phonics, Math's and Talk for Writing input during each session.

We have a particular focus on the following:

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

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

Talk for Writing - Each half term we will let you know our story focus. This will underpin most of the learning we do. We will learn to retell each story using actions and then begin to change parts of the story to make up our own!

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

Kinetic Letters

At this level, our handwriting programme involves the children strengthening their bodies using animal positions such as the gorilla, meerkat, stone lion, lizard and penguin. We are sure that as the children learn them they will show you! We also use a range of exercises and writing implements to help children develop strength and control in their arms, wrists and hands.

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>

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 fruit 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 for your cooperation.



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 points 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 in the entrance. If you would prefer you could also email them to your child's key worker. Please find details below.

The role of your child's key worker is to 'look out for' their key children during their time in the setting and get to know them and their family members well. They will also help to ensure that the child's learning and care is tailored to meet their individual needs. You are very welcome to contact your child's key worker via email or speak to them prior to or at the end of a session.

Reminders



Pump bags

All children require pumps and a spare change of clothes. Due to limited space, we please ask that these be in a named, draw-string bag, which can be left on their peg. We have some 'Ridge' pumpbags available at a cost of £4.50. If your child wears nappies, please also ensure we have plenty of these and any particular wipes you wish us to use.

Outdoor clothing

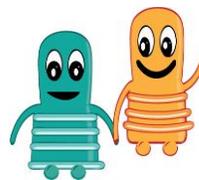
As we're sure you're aware, the weather is beginning to change. Please ensure your child wears appropriate clothing and footwear as we access the outdoor area each session. You may wish to provide wellies, which can also be stored in a bag on your child's peg. Please ensure ALL of your child's clothing and footwear is clearly labelled with their name.

Absence

Please complete an absence form if you know your child will not be attending a session (e.g medical appointment). 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. We also have holiday forms available to make us aware of any upcoming longer absences.

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.



What has my child been doing today?

Handwritten notices are displayed on the door by the ladybird cloakroom. These give some information of the snack and activities the children may have experienced during the session. Although many children will tell their parents about what they have been doing in Kindergarten, the written information sometimes provides a starting point for those children who are in the early stages of their language development.

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

cburley@ridge.dudley.sch.uk

Natalie Boucker

nboucker@ridge.dudley.sch.uk

Amanda Collins

acollins@ridge.dudley.sch.uk

Sonia Spink

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Louise Stubbs-Thomas

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