

Kindergarten Newsletter

January 2019

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 and also send our best wishes to Miss Stubbs-Thomas who leaves us to have her baby boy. There are a lot of 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 phonics and math's 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.

Kinetic Letters - At this level, it involves the children strengthening their bodies using animal positions such as the gorilla, meerkat, stone lion, lizard and penguin. We are sure 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.

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

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 cburley@ridge.dudley.sch.uk

Each child in Kindergarten also has a Key Person. The role of this 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.

Please note that due to Miss Stubbs-Thomas leaving for maternity, either Mrs Boucker or Mrs Spink will take on her key children. We will contact you to let you know.

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>

Learning this term

The topic this term is Snowy Animals. Whilst learning about this topic, we will be looking at the Arctic and exploring ice and snow. We will be investigating freezing and melting and learning about different animals.

Talk for Writing

We are also raising the profile of 'Talk for Writing' and storytelling. The children will be learning to retell stories using actions. From this they will then be encouraged to change elements of the story in order to create their own.

We will also be having a 'Rhyme of the Week' focus. This will be displayed on the main door each week so you are able to practice this at home.



Reminders

Pump bags

All children need nappies 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.

Safe Guarding 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.

Claire Burley

cburley@ridge.dudley.sch.uk

Natalie Boucker

nboucker@ridge.dudley.sch.uk

Amanda Collins

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Clare Fereday

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