

Kindergarten Newsletter

September 2018

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. There have been lots of exciting changes happening over the summer, including changes to staff, our learning environment and we are now offering 30-hour provision from September. We hope you are looking forward to the school year 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 will also have a phonics and math's input during each session. We have a focus on the following:

Maths - Recognising numbers to 10 and counting them 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.

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

Kinetic Letters

We aim to raise the profile of our handwriting programme in Kindergarten this year. 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.

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 melon 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.



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 the end of each term 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 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.



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

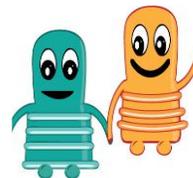
As we're sure you're aware, the weather is beginning to change. Please ensure your child wears appropriate clothing and footwear as we access the outdoor area each session. You may wish to provide wellies, which can also be stored in a bag on your child's peg. Please ensure ALL of your child's clothing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

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

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