

Early Years Newsletter Spring 2018



Dear Parents

Happy New Year! The children have settled back into school well after the Christmas break and despite coughs, colds and the usual winter bugs, they are already getting on with their learning enthusiastically. We are really looking forward to all of the exciting things that we have planned for the children this half term.



Our Learning Journey

Our new topic 'It's a Bear!' was launched last week with a variety of bears arriving in Elm class as well as stories and poems about different bears. It has already generated much discussion and excitement for the children.

We will be exploring old and new bears with the children and discussing how these are similar or different to our own toys. Linked to this we will read Old Bear stories. We will be thinking about lots of different aspects of toy bears; finding out what they are made of, sorting them, playing with them and having our own adventures!

By using books and the internet we will find out facts about real bears, comparing them and writing about them.

Phonics sessions will continue daily and these will be taught in groups to allow the children to make progress at their own pace; developing knowledge of letters and sounds, blending for reading and beginning to look at simple rules for spelling and writing.

Other core skills will be embedded into the children's learning and we will continue with our morning carousel groups to focus learning in key areas within small groups and importantly, developing fine motor skills so that we can improve our handwriting.

A copy of our plan has been included so you can see what we will be learning in all the areas of the curriculum. Please come and ask if you have any questions regarding this.

Alternatively you can look on the school website

www.bartons.w-sussex.sch.uk



Home Bear Diary project

We will be launching a new project in Elm Class this term. The children will have the opportunity to bring home a class bear along with a story book and diary /notebook. We will be encouraging them to record their stay at home with pictures; drawings or a photo with a simple sentence telling us how they spent their time together. More explanation will be enclosed in the bag when it comes home to you. Please support your child in this work as they love to share their experiences when they return to school. It is a great way to help children to learn about each other and build relationships with friends as they talk about and read the book. It also gives them a purpose to write and even use technology and develop their confidence in speaking.

Next Steps

We will soon be sending home a Stars and Wishes sheet, a short report written half way through the year. These give lots of areas to focus on with the children's learning. If you have not already done so please return the parent comment sheet sent last term so that we can build a full picture of your child's achievements and interests.

PE kits and earrings

Please ensure your child has full NAMED PE kit in school.

Our PE sessions will continue to be on Thursdays so please ensure **all earrings are removed** on this day and that long hair is tied back securely. It is a good idea to leave PE kits in school all week in case we need to swap sessions with another class at any time.

Help Required!

We would warmly welcome any offers of support or help from parents or grandparents of children in Elm class. We currently have two parents reading with our children, but if anyone else feels they could offer some time in the week it would be appreciated.



Home Support

Please continue to read regularly with your children and support them with their phonics, red words and numbers at home. Please also make sure that you or your child change the 'sharing' book regularly.



Contacting us

We are really pleased with the way the children are developing their independence, but some children are still not coming into school on their own and we would really like to encourage them to do this from now on. Please help us by saying goodbye to your child at the door and let them sort their things out themselves.

If you have any general concerns that you would like to address then please ask to see us outside school hours, either before or after. You can also arrange this by contacting the school office on 01243 822056.

Many Thanks

Mrs Reynolds
and the Early Years team.