



With belief and hard work

anything is possible

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Dear Parents,

We would like to welcome all our new starters that are joining us. It has been very busy with home visits and new starters but so far everyone is settling well. We will be sending out further information about the routines within Nursery in the coming weeks once all of the children have started and are settled.

This half term we will be making observations and assessments of the children so we know where our starting points are. The children will be engaging in lots of colour activities especially around the Elmer stories and also work linked to Nursery Rhymes.

 <p><u>Personal, Social and Emotional Development</u></p> <p>Much of our work at the beginning of the term will be settling the children into their new routines. We shall be talking about New Beginnings. We will further develop the children's social skills and help the children to make new friends.</p>	 <p><u>Communication, Language and Literacy</u></p> <p>Speaking, understanding & listening and attention are an ongoing and integral part of each session throughout the year. The children will take part in BLAST and/or Language Steps activities. We will be encouraging the children to 'make marks' in a range of areas within the classroom and help them to read environmental print all around them. All of the children's writing both Teacher Led and Independent will now be placed in the children's writing journals.</p>	 <p><u>Physical Development</u></p> <p>This half term the focus for the children's physical development will be around the children's gross motor skills and a great deal of this work will be completed outside. We also will be looking to support the children inside with the correct use of the tools within areas of the classroom e.g. rakes, rolling pins, paintbrushes etc.</p>
 <p><u>Mathematics</u></p> <p>Our Maths work this first half term is based upon counting in sequence. We will be doing this by singing different number rhymes and finding ways to count in all areas of the classroom. The children will also be working on sorting and making sets.</p>	 <p><u>Expressive Arts and Design</u></p> <p>We will be investigating lots of ways to mix colours as part of our colours theme and be creating rainbows using a range of different media and techniques. The children will also be encouraged to create lots of independent paintings to develop their mark making skills. Our music sessions will be based upon introducing group singing through Nursery rhymes. Our role play area this half term is a home corner.</p>	 <p><u>Understanding of the World</u></p> <p>We will be talking about Autumn and the children will be encouraged to bring items in to display. We will be encouraging children to talk about their experiences through their holiday boxes. We also hope to take a walk to our local shops.</p>

Stay and Play

Stay and Play sessions will be held once a month after the children have settled in to the nursery routine. These sessions are a chance for you to stay for the full session and join in the activities that your child engages in on a daily basis. When it comes time for the first session there will be a list on the wall closer to the date for you to sign up if you would like to join us for stay and play! There will be cake and coffee and a chance for you to meet other parents and work with your child in a number of activities! Each stay and play will focus on a different area of learning so please join us for as many as you can!

Attendance

This year we are continuing the attendance award system for the children with 100% attendance across the year. There will be a small reward at the end of each half term and a larger reward for those that manage a full term with no absences. There will be a chart in the cloakroom for you to keep an eye on how close you are to the target!

Behaviour

As most parents will know from the open day we have a behaviour policy that runs through Early Years Foundation Stage. In the classroom you will notice three faces. The middle face is a green 'Highcliffe Happy' face which is where we want the children to enter nursery – happy and settled ready to start the day, the top face is 'Extremely Excellent' - this is where your child's photo will move to if they do something above and beyond the norm for the session, the bottom face is 'Deeply Disappointed' and this will be used when your child goes against our classroom promises and this will result in a time out for a few minutes. If you have any concerns or questions regarding this behaviour policy please feel free to come and discuss it with the staff. Please remember this policy is about promoting positive behaviour.

Things to look out for!

You will have noticed some 'pockets' hanging in the corners of the cloakroom. These are your post pockets! Please can you check these on a regular basis for new letters, information etc.

Home / School sheets are available for you to take home and complete with your child. These sheets are changed every other Friday and are linked to activities that we are doing in school. Please do not feel that you have to take these sheets home they are there if you would like to. All of the children have a home/school file if you return any completed sheets back to nursery!

In the coming weeks we will be introducing our home loan library system.

There will be a 'dates for your diary' letter coming out soon.

Outdoor Play

The Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum provides learning opportunities through activities inside and outside the classroom. As the weather gets cooler we advise that your child wears a warm coat (with their name in it) to school, in order for them to experience outside play. We are outside in most weathers! We would also appreciate if the children could have a spare pair of wellies and clothing within school as outdoor play can be messy!

Home / School Diary

On a Friday we like to do a show and tell session so every child will be given a home/school diary book that they can bring in on a Friday to share news with their

friends. It would be really helpful if you could make a few notes of anything exciting the children have been up to at home.

Health and Safety

As the number of children attending nursery is now rising we have a large number of people coming into nursery at the beginning and end of session. For this reason we will now have to ask that pushchairs are left outside under the canopy. Younger siblings are more than welcome to come into Nursery but we ask that the pushchairs are left outside. We are sure you will understand that should there be a fire drill during the beginning or end of the session the pushchairs may become an obstacle during evacuation.

Jewellery is not allowed to be worn in nursery



Please note these general reminders...

- ✓ We ask for a voluntary contribution of £1 per week to our fund money, the tin and class list is located in Nursery. Thank you for making this valuable donation it really makes a difference to the resources and activities that we can offer your child.
- ✓ 'Junk' for models and creative activities is always welcome e.g. pots, boxes, newspapers etc. Please send in what you can as the children use it constantly!! We will also put up specific requests for particular projects.
- ✓ If your child is going home with a relative or another parent please tell staff in the morning or call school to inform them during the day. We will not permit anyone to take your child if we have not been advised by you.

Again, please ask staff if you have any further questions.

Many thanks,

Miss Hill, Mrs Oxley, Mrs Lamb and Miss Shutt