

BODSHAM CE PRIMARY SCHOOL

BUTTERFLIES CLASS NEWSLETTER - AUTUMN TERM 2018

Dear Parents,

Welcome to our new Butterflies and to Bodsham School for those families joining us for the first time! We hope you had a peaceful summer holiday and a restful break. It was lovely to see so many of you at our orientation evening. We are all very fortunate to be a part of this wonderful school community and have been so impressed with the way the children have settled in this first week exploring the classroom, school resources and establishing new routines. They have already formed friendships and are very excited to learn.

During our first fortnight we have been learning our routines and getting to know each other. Our first topic will be 'Traditional Tales'. We will learn about lots of our favourite fairy tales in a cross-curricular and immersive way. Each week we will choose a story which will inspire our learning across the curriculum. We learn through play as much as possible, as well as having more formal sessions such as phonics. During our first term these are the themes our learning will be centred around.

| Area of Learning | Themes to explore |
|--|---|
| Communication and Language | Speaking and listening. Taking turns in talking. Focussing attention and maintaining concentration. |
| Literacy | Joining in with stories, rhymes and songs. Writing their name and simple familiar words. Recognising their name and other simple, familiar words. Beginning to learn the letter sounds. |
| Mathematical development (Numeracy) | Counting songs. Numbers 1-10. Counting groups of objects. More and less, simple 2D shapes and patterns. |
| Personal, Social and Emotional Development | Developing confidence and independence. Becoming familiar with rules and routines. Making friends, sharing and taking turns. Beginning to be able to manage feelings and behaviour. |
| Expressive Arts and Design | Role play. Exploring mixing and changing colours. Model making. |
| Knowledge and Understanding the World | Similarities and differences in relation to friends and family. |
| Religious Education | New beginnings. Harvest festival and 'Getting to know God' |
| Physical Development | Fine motor control - developing an effective pencil grip to form letters correctly. Gross motor control - moving freely with pleasure and confidence in a range of ways. |

In the Early Years pupils are encouraged to contribute to the planning of topics, activities and role play areas so that learning is based on their own interests. This means that although we have an idea of topics we would like to cover over the year, the planning of learning themes and topics is very flexible. Before starting a topic we will consider what we have observed the children showing enthusiasm for. We will also have a discussion with the children about what they would like to learn about next and base new topics around their current interests.

During our child-initiated sessions, model making proves to be a very popular activity. If you ever have any clean packaging or toilet rolls that you would like us to upcycle into junk models, please do send it in!

Book bags

- Please check daily for notes and post. We will check the reading log every day and occasionally we may enclose messages here too.
- Please keep your child's reading book and reading log in the book bag and fill it in each time you hear your child read. We will change reading books on **Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays**. On Fridays we will change **both** reading books and library books. We will only change your child's reading book if we know you have finished reading it, so don't forget to write in the contact book if you have read together, or if you would like to keep the current book for a little longer.
- **Family learning journals** - feel free to add any news of exciting things you have done at home, outings you have had etc. We will send out a home learning task every fortnight, these activities will allow you to spend some time with your child engaging with our current topic. We know how tired the children can be in the first term; so please don't see them as onerous and do try to complete each task before they are due back in school.

Drinks and snacks

Each day your child will be offered a piece of fruit and those who have signed up to 'Cool Milk' will have a carton of milk. If your child wishes, they may bring in their own piece of fruit; please label this clearly. If your child brings a water bottle to school this needs to be clearly labelled with their name.

Reading

After your child has read to an adult in school, a comment about how they have read will be written in their contact book; please do the same when your child reads to an adult at home. Please don't feel you have to read the whole book in a sitting, a few pages a night should allow you to finish the book between book change days. We will read with your child once a week and look at their level at this time. However, please let us know if your child is finding their book particularly easy or hard as we value your input too.

Phonics

Your child will take part in daily phonics sessions. We will send home 'sound cards' on a regular basis, so that you know the sounds we have been learning and you can continue to practise them at home. As your child begins to learn to read, you can play 'sound spotters' in their reading book, even if they cannot read complete words. For example you could ask your child, 'can you spot any t sounds on this page?' Please try to use the sound, rather than the letter name and feel free to ask us if you have any questions regarding phonics.

We will also send home high frequency words to learn as soon as we have covered them in class. These words play an important part in holding together the general coherence of texts. Some of these words have irregular or difficult spellings and are hard to predict from the surrounding text these words we refer to as 'tricky words'.

Tapestry

As I showed you during our orientation meeting, Tapestry has been a really valuable addition to Butterflies' class. It means that you can keep up to date on what your child has been up to at school and also let us know what you have been doing at home. Tapestry allows us to document learning from Shine Time and practical activities in other sessions. We will add a brief note underneath and 'tag' the child/children in each picture. You will then receive an email notification to let you know that there is an observation for your child. Tapestry also means that we can photograph or video things like school trips and performances of things like songs or puppet shows. You can use it in the same way at home; it is generally easy to navigate, but if you do have any problems, please just ask. Please remember not to share photos containing other children on social media.

Name labels

Please can we ask that you name all your child's uniform, PE kits, book bags, water bottles and food containers.

Clothing and PE

In addition to your child's usual school uniform could we please ask that Butterflies also have a pair of named wellies; it would also be useful to have a spare set of clothes in case of accidents, these do not need to be school uniform. This term we are looking at ball skills with Charlie from Elite and we are also having a yoga session every Friday afternoon. We will send PE kits home at the end of each term.

Home time

When waiting for your child at home time please wait for them by the wall and they will be sent to you once the teacher has seen that you are there. This ensures that we have sent your child home safely and everyone is accounted for. If there is a change to the normal person collecting your child please inform the office either in person or by email so we can be informed of this.

We are looking forward to the year ahead, it will be a busy and rewarding time. If you have questions or queries feel free to catch us at the start or end of the day; we are always happy to help.

Many thanks



Mrs Lambert-Billingsley and Mrs Coley