

Early Years Newsletter



Friday 11th September 2020 King Henry VIII Preparatory School

Academic Year 2020-2021

Issue 1



- to our first Early Years Newsletter of the year!

It is truly wonderful to see you all back in school and for those of you who are new to King Henry's, we extend a warm 'hello'. We are so looking forward to getting to know you and your family.

Watching the children arrive on their first day of term, we have been so impressed with how they have already adapted to being in school. This is especially true because for some of them, they are arriving back after a very, very long break, for others they are returning after the summer holidays and for an even larger number they are arriving at a completely new setting. It has been such a joy to see familiar faces and get to meet so many new ones too. There have been so many smiles and so few tears, which is amazing!

The start of a new year brings lots of new routines. You will be receiving a range of information regarding different aspects of the curriculum and school, especially at the beginning of the year so please try to check your email and Tapestry regularly so that you are not 'surprised' by something relating to school.

Menus.

We will be endeavouring to send out the menu choices for the week ahead on a **Tuesday**. Please could you circle your preferred main dish and pudding so that we know what to serve your child each day. Could these be returned to us before the end of the week. Thank you!

Snacks

Please make sure that these are 'healthy snacks' and not chocolatey and also that grapes are cut in half to prevent being a choking hazard. Thank you!

Queries

We understand that you may have a range of questions and queries that you would like to chat through with us. If you do, please contact your class teacher in the first instance, either by email or at the end of the day.

NURSERY NEWS

Nursery staff have been so impressed with the way the children have come in and settled this week. The Assistant Head, Ms Shortt, walked through on Tuesday morning and commented on how "calm and lovely" it was! Children can take their time to settle, especially if it is the first time they have been away from the family home, but this is okay and we give them plenty of time to do it when they are ready. The Nursery is very much child-initiated play, with adult support to sustain the children's thinking and learning experience. This week has been focused entirely on exploring the different areas and learning the rules for each area. We want the children to feel happy, secure and "at home" here and so far, they seem to be very happy. Can we take this opportunity to say, if you have any news, concerns or things you would like to share with us, please use Tapestry or chat to us in the morning or at pick up.

Also, please can your child be sent in with a small morning snack... just a piece of fruit is great as they don't want to spend ages in the snack area eating! We have noticed that some children have grapes and this is great, but please **CHOP** them up as there have been incidents of choking on grapes. A quick reminder about labelling everything and sending in spare clothes every day just in case! Forest Fun starts next week, if you want to send wellies in, we have an area for storing them. Next week we will be looking at the story Goldilocks. If your child has anything they would like to show us, relating to this story, we would love to see it! We hope you have a restful weekend, I think the children are very tired!



RECEPTION NEWS

This week has been all about enabling the children to be happy and comfortable in their surroundings, helping them to settle into their classes and make new friends. It is such a huge change and a big learning curve. Even for those who are used to long hours in a Nursery or other setting, learning new names and playing in new spaces is tiring. Your child may need some early nights to adjust over the first few days or weeks. Already, we have been pleased to see children becoming brave enough to talk to their new class mates, inviting them to join in their play or share an event or story with them. Fantastic! We have heard lots of them saying, 'Sharing is caring.' Which is very heart-warming! We have also been broadly assessing children to help us to gauge starting points in Literacy and Numeracy. This information is vital in helping us plan for 'next learning steps' when we start our Topic in a couple of weeks. We have been very impressed with some amazing knowledge and understanding! What a busy yet fun week we have had!



Please see letter relating to reading.

Dear Parents,

A very warm welcome to Reception!

We just wanted to update you on how we will be doing reading in school for the foreseeable future. Due to the current Risk Assessment in place to enable our school community to stay as safe as possible, we have had to make some adaptations to the way in which we work.

Bringing reading books home:

On **Mondays**, children will be given two new reading books. One of those will be sent home for you to share with your child for the week and the other different text will be kept for us to share in school. This means that although only one book is going home, your child will still be reading two books a week as usual. Importantly, it limits the exchange of books between home and school.

How to hear your child read:

On the first share of your reading book, it may be a good idea to read the book to your child, whilst asking them questions about the text. What they can see in the pictures? What they think may happen next in the story? Can they find a word beginning with the letter....? How do they think the characters are feeling? Etc. When your child is comfortable with the story, the next time you share the book, you can ask your child to read it to you. Jump in to support your child when they need help. Encourage them to point carefully under each word as they go along. When your child starts a word, you can help them by sounding it out phonetically if needed then encourage them to push the sounds together as follows, c - a - t, cat. If the word is, for example, 'said' do not ask your child to sound it out as it will not help. Instead say, 'this is a 'red' word which means it can't be sounded out, it just needs to be learnt'. Your child may start reading by memory and not sounding out any words at all. This is an important first step but still encourage your child to look at, at least one or two words in each sentence and sound them out as above.

Reading Diaries:

We are unable to use Reading Diaries due to the need to quarantine items going between home and school. So, for the moment, your child will not have a Reading Diary. Please do still share your child's books with them at home each night. You can talk to us about how they are doing at the end of the school day or send us an email. Remember, if you do have any questions or queries, please ask!