



Elm Class Update - Week 4

Autumn 1

Dear parents and carers,

Government Baseline Assessment

Reception children in Elm Class have now taken part in the Governments EYFS Baseline Assessment check. The children have all been fantastic and we had lots of fun playing the Communication, Language, Literacy and Math games.

Family Photos

Thankyou to the families that have brought a family photo into school with their child. If you haven't done so already we would be grateful if they could come into school as soon as possible and/or attach a digital family photo via messages on Dojo. We are beginning a mark making project this week with the children that will involve their family photo. Many thanks.

Sounds Write Phonics Programme

Reception Sounds-Write programme of work will begin this week. I'm looking forward to getting started with developmentally ready children on their phonics journey.

Wellies

Thankyou to the families that have brought wellies into school. If your child still hasn't then don't worry there's still time. Please try to bring a pair into school as soon as possible, Autumn is upon us and the weather will soon begin to turn.

PE (Gross Physical development)

Elm class begin PE in the hall this week. We are delighted to share with families that we will be undertaking a Primary Yoga programme with Mrs Wilkes and her friends 'Down on wobble farm!'. We can't wait to get started! The children will need to come to school already dressed in their PE kit starting Monday morning (26th). Please ensure your child's name is clearly written inside their PE clothes and PE gym shoes. Thankyou.

Dance Day

It is whole school 'Dance Day' on Friday – Please ensure your child comes into school dressed in their PE kit. Many thanks

School Nurses

On Tuesday school nurses will be coming into school to conduct heights and weights checks with EYFS children.

Play Matters

Play matters in Elm Class working with the children every day following their interests and fascinations in the learning areas during investigations time. Every week I will try to include 3 to 4 children's interests in Elm class weekly update. I try to ensure that over the half term every child has been observed and has had their interests shared.

Interests during the last couple of weeks have ranged from Freya enjoying the wheeled toys outside. Fearne playing alongside her friends in the Lego area building a house with a big door. Esmee making homemade 'chocolate' smelling playdough in the malleable area. Benjamin playing alongside Isla sharing with Noah's Ark which became a car carrying ferry and animal transport ship! Aurelia planning weddings, making and writing invitations to invite her friends to the wedding party. Aria has been busy in the writer's workshop drawing, cutting and sharing cellotape with George. Ava has been super busy in the home area looking after the baby with her friends.

Areas of Learning

Literacy

Reception

We will begin wider schools Sounds-Write Programme of work: Initial Code - Unit 1 **a i m s t** Week 4 and Week 5.

Home-work linked to Sounds-write will begin to be sent home on a Friday afternoon. This homework is to be completed at home with your child supported by an adult. It is consolidation work only and does not need to be returned to school.

We will continue to encourage children to be involved in gross motor activities to help develop upper body strength. The children will continue to be encouraged to mark make their name at every opportunity and be encouraged to make marks for a real reason during investigations linked to their inside and outside play.

Early writing skills will be extensively encouraged and during this half term we will be providing activities that will build up muscles in the children's arms such as the shoulder, elbow and wrist pivots. Large movement activities such as cleaning the walls and windows with large brushes and water, painting tree trunks with dissolvable foam, sweeping the leaves off the deck and digging big such as in the sand or soil – are just some activities that help to strengthen children's key pivots which help to develop better writers. For children with developed dexterity smaller paper, A4 whiteboards, pens/ pencils and watercolour painting using thin brushes and threading activities all help to promote and strengthen the children's finger joints and master a comfortable pencil grasp.

Mathematics

Reception – Phase 1 'Just like me'.

This week mathematical learning intentions include - Find and match objects that are the same.

The children will begin to work in small adult directed maths groups.

Children will view stories such as Monkey Puzzle by Julia Donaldson and Noah's Ark by Lucy Cousins. If you are lucky enough to have these stories you may like to read and re-read them at home. If not, you may be able to find them to view with your child via You Tube on a tablet, PC or smartphone at home.

Warmest regards, **Ms Lilley**

