



Elm Class Update - Week 2

Autumn 1

Dear parents and carers,

The children have settled well into school and are now beginning to remember daily routines. We start the day with investigations learning through play. Play matters to us at Easington C of E so we place great importance on starting our day with free flow play between inside and the garden classroom areas outside. During this time the children are encouraged to follow their own interests and passions with adults in support challenging and extending play when appropriate. Tue to Fri we have a Focus Child and a Reporter. All of the children are on a roster so that they all have a turn at key roles.

- **The Focus Child** is the child that we observe learning through play.
- **The Reporter** will have a mark making and drawing activity to complete.

This half term our theme is 'Marvellous Me!' We will be getting to know the children and all the wonderful things that make them unique. The children have begun by working very hard to draw portraits of themselves. Using black fine liners, the children have drawn themselves and tried to mark make their first name. Once finished we will be displaying the children's wonderful work in the classroom along side a photo of themselves and their family.

We have begun to introduce and circulate Barnaby Bear our class teddy which we hope promotes a sense of belonging and ownership within Elm Class. Each night he goes home with a child in the class for a 'Healthy Adventure' and a 'sleep over.' The child, with support from their family can write and draw in Barnaby's book about his stay. This activity is then shared with all the children the following day. Barnaby Bear is to be brought back to class the following morning so that the next child can take him home. More information for families is included in Barnaby's bag 😊

Photos - During the following few weeks, we would appreciate a small family photo to be sent into school with your child. We will colour copy your photo and return the original back to you. This photo will be displayed in the classroom alongside your child's portrait throughout the year.

Snack – Thankyou to the families that have chosen to send in fresh fruit or cut up vegetables to supplement their child's fruit supplied by school. If you chose to send in grapes, please ensure that each grape has been cut down the middle to discourage a choking hazard. **We will not accept processed and/ or packaged foods of any description.** These foods will be returned to parents at the end of the school day. Please do not sent processed and/or packaged foods into school with your child. Thankyou.

Water bottles – Thankyou, it has been lovely to see so many water bottles in school. Unfortunately, we have had several leaking bottles into book bags. Just to say, book bags as we progress will be to carry books. Please encourage your child to carry their water bottle separately. Thankyou

Uniform – Thank you to families that have written their child’s name in every piece of uniform including shoes, PE kit, coats, and wellies. I can’t stress the importance of this. Please double check all uniform and add names if you haven’t done so already. Thank you

Wellies – Wellies are an important part of EYFS kit. When the children play in the outdoor area, they are required to take off their shoes and put on their wellies. Please ensure your child has a pair of wellies in school to keep in their locker. Please ensure your child knows how to take off and put on their shoes independently. **Laces** in EYFS are discouraged, unless they can fasten the laces themselves. If your child has **buckles**, please ensure that your child knows how to manipulate them successfully to be able to take their shoes on and off independently. Many thanks

Blue Book Bags - Just to say, school uniform includes a school blue book bag, a big thank you to the families that are bringing them into school. We would be grateful if children bringing ‘**backpacks**’ to school would keep them at home and replace them with a blue book bag as soon as possible. I understand some families are waiting for blue bags still on order. Thankyou for letting us know.

Earrings – If your child already has studs in their ears then on Wednesdays for PE their studs must be covered over with plaster’s. Many thanks.

Safeguarding - Just a quick reminder to ask families to give staff a little wave when your child is at the front of the line at the gate at home time. I would appreciate it if families refrained from waving to children until their child is at the front of the line ready to go. As I’m sure you can appreciate It can be confusing and a little bit distracting for adults to know who we are sending a child to if lots of families are waving at the same time, especially when adults are learning new family faces. Many thanks 😊

Areas of Learning

Communication/ Language and Literacy

This week we will continue to encourage the children to recognise and mark make/write their name on models, drawings and paintings. We will begin to draw ourselves for a lovely display in the classroom and our families. The children will be encouraged to label their drawings mark making/ writing their own and family names.

Mathematics

This week we will begin to share White Rose Math’s Phase 1 stories linked to early years mathematical concepts that we will begin to teach during the coming weeks. We will be sharing and discussing stories such as Beep Beep Vroom Vroom by Stuart J Murphy, The button box by Margarett Reid, Duck in the truck by Jez Alborough and Dear Zoo by Rod Campbell.

Warmest regards,

Ms Lilley