



Elm Class Update - Week 4

Autumn 1

Dear parents and carers,

Government Baseline Assessment

Reception children in Elm Class have begun the Governments EYFS Baseline Assessment check. The children have all been fantastic so far and we had lots of fun playing the Communication, Language, Literacy and Math games. We will continue this week.

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 this week. We are beginning a mark making project this week with the children that will involve their family photo. Alternatively if you wish to share a family photo on dojo I can cut, paste and print. 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. Phonics homework will begin to be sent home on a Friday to complete with families over the weekend. This homework does not need to be returned back to school it is purely work to consolidate learning that's taken place in the week.

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. The children are in and out of wellies all day long as they access the EYFS outdoor space.

Tuesday 26th – International Languages day – Croissants and coffee in the hall 8.30am till 9.00. Everyone welcome. Phonics open evening for parents at 5.00pm in the hall. Everyone welcome.

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

Oliver enjoyed playing alongside his friend in the kitchen area. "I'm doing the ironing. Mam has an iron at home".

Zak enjoyed playing in the role play area alongside his friend Thea. He enjoyed policemen dress ups and pretending to be a chef and a vet. Z was keen to talk about his dogs and how one had passed away.

Thea enjoyed playing alongside Issabelle H at the Autumn treasures table. "I can see spikey apple"

Issabelle enjoyed working alongside Thea in the Funky Fingers area threading beads and sorting them into matching colours back into the sorting pots

Areas of Learning

Literacy

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

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. Please supervise your child if you choose to access You Tube.

Warmest regards,

Ms Lilley