





Thursday 13th September 2018

Dear Parents / Carers,

We are writing to share with you an overview of the learning opportunities that your child will be experiencing in the first half of the autumn term in Early Years. First and foremost, the start of this half term is about children settling into new routines, making new friendships and becoming familiar with new adults in the classroom.

Our topics this half term are 'Ourselves' and 'Our School'. In the final week before half term, we will join the whole school in our exciting Africa themed week. In addition to this information, please see the class planning boards in each classroom for the ideas the children have contributed too!

<p>Personal, Social and Emotional Development</p> 	<p>Children will be making new friendships and getting to know each other.</p> <p>Teachers will be establishing daily classroom routines that the children will be able to anticipate. We will be helping the children to understand our expectations in the classroom and in the outside environment, talking about classroom rules and why they are important.</p> <p>We will be encouraging the children to select activities and resources within the classroom and enjoy carrying out tasks and games.</p>
<p>Communication and Language Development</p> 	<p>Children will be listening to, and joining in with, stories read by adults in their classroom every day.</p> <p>We will be exploring, and developing, language and vocabulary through everyday play, especially within the home area / role play areas of the classroom and in small world play (for example, with the farm set and dolls house).</p>
<p>Physical Development</p> 	<p>Children will be able to play and explore in the outside environment each day, running, climbing, digging, using the bikes and scooters etc. We will be using the school trim track each day walking, jogging and running.</p> <p>We will be encouraging the children to develop hand-eye coordination by threading, jigsaws, using scissors etc.</p> <p>We will encourage the children to become more independent when putting on and taking off jumpers, coats and wellies.</p>
<p>Literacy Development - Reading and writing</p> 	<p>Children will be encouraged to share and enjoy stories and books with each other as well as having lots of opportunities to draw and paint.</p> <p>Reception aged children will begin to learn and recognise the letters s, a, t, p, i, n, m, and d through the 'Jolly Phonics' scheme we teach at school. They will learn the actions and sounds for these letters.</p> <p>Reception aged children will also be learning to write their names and be introduced to Kipper and his family – the characters in our Oxford Reading Scheme books.</p>

Mathematics Development



Children will be encouraged to join in with activities which will include using numbers in familiar contexts. They will be recognising and comparing sets of objects and then learning to find one more/less up to 5 as well as counting groups of objects up to 10.

In practical activities, we will begin to use the vocabulary involved in adding and subtracting.

Children will explore objects and shapes and talk about ways to describe and sort them.

Understanding the World



Through our topic about 'Ourselves', and as we get to know the children, they will be given opportunities to share information about their own lives, their likes and dislikes, their families and pets etc. We will also be exploring 'Our School' inside and outside and learning some of the names of the adults who work here.

Children will be using the classroom computers as well as the school ipads.

The whole school will be having an 'Africa' themed week in the last week before half term. We will watch some African dancing by the Mighty Zulu Nation!

Expressive Arts and Design



Children will have lots of opportunities to explore the creative areas of the classroom using materials such as paints, clay, playdough, chalks and crayons.

We will be encouraging children to join in with familiar songs and nursery rhymes.

Children will have opportunity to be imaginative within role play, in the home area and when using the class dressing up box.

Homework activities this half term

Nursery and Reception.

Please share books with your child from the classroom, from home and from the library every day. Sing familiar songs and have lots of time to play games together.

Please remember that your child's book bag and water bottle should be in school every day. Your child's PE kit should stay in school for the half term (Reception children only). Please ensure that all of your child's belongings are clearly labelled.

At Castle Park School, we value the important partnership between home and school; please use the information above to support your child with their learning over the coming weeks. If you have any questions about any of this information, please feel free to call into school and see us.

Thank you.

The Early Years Team