





Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2020

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 school and new routines, making new friendships and becoming familiar with adults in the classroom. Well done to all the children for making such a positive start to the school year. Thank you to all the parents for the support you have given your child to enable them to be so happy and settled at school.

Our topics this half term are 'Ourselves' and 'Our School'.

<p><b>Personal, Social and Emotional Development</b></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><b>Communication and Language Development</b></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 and doll's house).</p>
<p><b>Physical Development</b></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. Children will have PE in the school once a week.</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><b>Literacy Development Reading and Writing</b></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 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 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



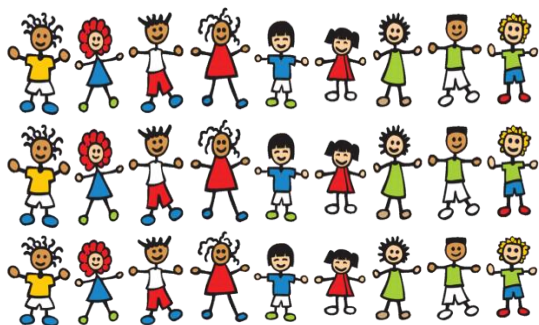
Children will be encouraged to join in with activities which will include using numbers in familiar contexts. We will be spotting numbers in and around our environment—something you can do with your children at home too.

Children will be matching and sorting groups of objects as well as comparing amounts.

They will be looking at comparing objects by their size, weight and capacity. They will also be copying, continuing and creating their own 2 and 3 colour or shape patterns.

These skills will be taught through a range of practical, hands on activities.

### 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' 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.

We will begin to explore simple science investigations.

### 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 every day. These may be from the classroom, from home or from the library. 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. Frogs and Butterflies should come to school every Friday in their PE kit. 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 contact us via ClassDojo or through the school office [admin@castle-park.cumbria.sch.uk](mailto:admin@castle-park.cumbria.sch.uk).

Thank you.

*The Early Years Team*