

Lion Cubs Class



Autumn Term Newsletter 2011

Dear Parents,

I would like to wish you all a very warm welcome to Lion Cubs Class! I hope that you had a very relaxing and enjoyable summer break. Our new Lion Cubs have almost reached the end of their first full week in 'big school' and I am very impressed with how quickly they seem to have settled into their new class. I hope that you find your first newsletter informative and if there is any further information that you would like that I haven't included, please do not hesitate to come and see me.

What's happening in Lion Cubs class this term?

Settling In Period:

During the first 3 weeks (and 3 days!) we will spend lots of time helping the children to settle into their new class/new school. They will also learn general routines such as how to locate and appropriately use classroom resources, how to line up for the playtimes, toilets, cloakroom, how to tidy up resources efficiently, where to get their lunch, how to play appropriately on the playground and they will also decide on a set of 'class rules' which will help us to all feel happy and work cooperatively in Lion Cubs class.

In addition, during this initial 'settling in period', we will spend a lot of our time observing the children and carrying out assessments and observations which will enable us to get a clear picture of where each child is at in terms of their development. The outcomes of our findings will enable us to put together a set of 'next steps' for each child to help them to move forward with their learning. These 'next steps' will be shared with you in your child's first half term report which you will receive at our next parents meeting.

Topic Work (linking to all areas of learning)

The Places People Go



Lion Cubs class will be working alongside Tigers class (Yr1) this half term on a topic which focuses on the places that people go on holiday. The children had great fun on our holiday to France this week and this 'journey' will be used as a basis for many of the activities that will take place this half term. We will aim to regularly update our class webpage with photographs of events and activities that take place in class.

Communication Language & Literacy:

Speaking and Listening



A lot of the focus this term and indeed throughout the school year will be to develop your child's speaking and listening skills. We will engage the children in listening games involving environmental sounds, music, rhyme, singing and stories. The children will also engage in lots of activities which will involve verbal communication, listening and responding. These activities will aim to give the children opportunities to develop their vocabulary and listen and respond to one another.

Early Handwriting Skills



Starting next week your child will participate in early handwriting skills every morning when he/she arrives in class. These activities will involve tracing handwriting patterns and creating patterns in a range of media such as foam, flour, porridge oats, dry/wet sand, paint etc.

When ***we*** feel that your child is ready to begin forming letters, they will be introduced to the cursive style of handwriting.

Further details about how to support your child at home will be distributed in the near future.

Letters and Sounds abcde

Next week Lion Cubs will begin their 'Letters and Sounds' sessions. During these sessions your child will be introduced to the names and sounds of the letters in the alphabet. They will also be taught how to break sounds up to spell simple words and blend sounds in very simple words for reading. Please be aware that even though your child is being taught the appropriate skills for spelling and reading, he/she will only be able to apply these skills when he/she is developmentally ready. Please do not worry if it takes your child weeks or even many months to acquire these skills as each child develops different skills at different rates and in their own time. This is perfectly normal.

Problem Solving, Reasoning & Numeracy:



This term a lot of the work in this area of learning will involve focussing on number recognition and counting objects. Lion Cubs will also focus on recognising differences in quantities, working out totals when there are more/less objects and they will also begin to explore the concept of addition. In addition, your child will be introduced to a range of 2D shapes and will begin to learn their names and some of their basic properties.

Physical Development:

Next week, we will open up our outdoor area. This area has been closed this week as we wanted to focus on helping the children to find their way around the classroom before introducing them to an additional working and playing area. Our outdoor space will provide the children with lots of opportunities to develop their physical/large motor skills and as of next week the children will have 'free-flow' access to this area. Please ensure that you supply your child with wellies and waterproofs on rainy days as they will have access to the outdoor area in **all** weather conditions providing they have suitable outdoor clothing.



PE:

Lion Cubs will start participating in PE sessions during the week beginning the 26th September (exact day to be confirmed). Please ensure that all PE kits and PE bags are clearly labelled with your child's full name and bring them into school by the date mentioned.

Homework:

Next week your child will take home his/her first piece of homework. Most homework tasks are linked to our topic or activities linking to literacy or numeracy. Should you need any advice about the work that has been sent home please come and see me at any time. Homework will be sent home in your child's book bag every **Friday** and must be returned to school by the following **Wednesday**.



Reading Books:

Next week your child will bring home his/her first picture reading book along with a story book which he/she will choose from our class library. Further details will be sent home in your child's book bag next Friday along with their homework. Reading books/diaries must also be returned to school in your child's book bag by the following Wednesday.

Parents Meeting – Thursday 6th October 2011 at 6pm

I would like to take this opportunity to inform you that there will be a parents meeting held on Thursday 6th October 2011 at 6pm. This meeting will give you some insight into your child's first few weeks in Foundation Stage 2, you will receive a brief report about how your child has settled into school life and you will get an opportunity to come and speak to me if you have any questions or concerns. I will send out detailed information about this meeting within the next couple of weeks.

Thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter and if you have any queries at all throughout the school year, please do not hesitate to come and see me at the end of the school day.

Many thanks, Mrs Boulton