Swansfield Park Primary School

Pear Class News

Autumn 1

Welcome to the first Pear Class newsletter! I hope you have had a fantastic summer with your families and are ready for the new school year ahead. I would also like to offer a warm welcome to those families who are new to our school and will be enjoying their first school year here with us in Pear class. Despite the fact that it has been a different start for us all, one which I am sure you as parents have all been apprehensive about, the children have done amazingly well and have quickly settled into their new class. Although the mornings can be tricky for our children, as separation from parents has had to be prompt and independent, the children have shown true emotional resilience – they seem to be finding the separation easier than us parents! Life in Pear class is quickly settling and the children are forming friendships and gaining in confidence daily – it is wonderful to see.

We hope that you find the information detailed in this letter a useful guide to our day in school. If you haven't already done so, please take time looking at the **Swansfield Park website**, it is a great way of finding out information. More specifically, if you go on to Pear Class in 'class pages' you will find all the learning that has taken place over the past week. This is where we will share photos and captions of all the wonderful things we have been up to on a weekly basis. Please don't hesitate to email me for any clarification, or if you have a more pressing matter, my door is 'metaphorically' always open and myself or Mrs Vicky will be around at drop off if you have any concerns or queries.

Read, Write, Inc

All children in Pear Class will begin Read Write Inc sessions the second week back at school. With RWI, Pear class will begin the exciting journey of learning and using the letter sounds that will unlock the door to reading and writing. For RWI, Pear children are placed into two smaller groups and your child will be taught by either myself or Mrs Vicky.

Please support your child as much as you can by asking your child about the letter sounds they have been learning and practising these at home regularly. You will receive a RWI pack in the coming week which will detail the letter sounds your child is learning.

Mathematics

In Reception, mathematics will be taught mainly through practical activities and games with lots of opportunity for taking this learning outdoors. This half term, we shall be ensuring that everyone in Pear class has a solid understanding of numbers to 5, including playing lots of games to help our children develop their subitising skills. As well as counting forwards and backwards, ordering, reading and writing digits, we'll be comparing numbers by using clear mathematical language such as more, less, fewer, most and least. For children who master these skills within 10, we'll progress to looking at how these patterns repeat in larger numbers. In addition to this, we'll be learning 2d and 3d shape names, investigating the properties of these shapes and looking for them in the environment that surrounds us at school. Autumn and harvest produce will provide us with lots of opportunity to order and compare size and capacity.

The World

During this half term our main topics will be *myself, My World and Feeling Fine, Autumn and Harvest.*

The 'Myself' topic will be getting to know the children, especially their interests, it's a good opportunity for us to understand their likes and dislikes. Alongside this, we really want the children to enjoy coming to school and for them to be happy whilst they settle in to a new environment with new rules and routines.

Moving on from this, we will be exploring Harvest, finding out about crops that are gathered and the machinery used, this

will lead nicely into a study of Autumn and we will use our senses to discover changes in the natural world around us.

During this half term, in everything we do, we will be teaching the essential personal, social and emotional skills needed to keep our classroom a happy and thriving place to spend our days.

Creative Work

Singing is a daily occurrence in Pear class and we'll be learning lots of new topic themed songs as well as enjoying old favourites! There will be opportunities for painting and collaging, particularly as we explore Autumn and Harvest. Of course, there will be plenty of creative materials out every day as part of our continuous provision and children will be free to follow their own interests and ideas.

Once we move away from our first topic 'Myself, My World and Feeling Fine' there will be more opportunities for our children to show off their creative side. Learning activities will include observational paintings, leaf dances, modelling our own Combine Harvesters and storytelling alongside any of the Autumnal avenues which the children wish to explore. *We spend a lot of time on our junk model creations in Pear class – it would be so helpful if you could save up items like yoghurt pots, egg cartons, boxes and plastic trays and bring them in to add to our supplies!

The Physical Stuff and The Outside Environment

In Reception our children have the opportunity for the first time in joining in with formal P.E lessons where we will work on developing our listening skills, our turn taking and coordination as we move, throw and climb. **This lesson will take place on Thursday mornings, please send your child to school in a white t shirt, purple shorts or plain black jogging bottoms and plain white or black trainers.**

Pear class garden also provides many avenues through which children will utilise their whole bodies; climbing and balancing across wooden planks on our tyres, digging in Autumn bulbs, regularly sweeping our extremely leafy garden and dancing, hula hooping, stilting and using up our abundance of energy! We will also be engaging in regular morning exercise through song and dance, with yoga sessions in the afternoons.

For our children to become super writers we will utilise dough disco, focused scissor work, collaging with Autumnal objects, threading activities and model making to ensure that our fingers get a good work out to help develop those important fine motor muscles!

We go outside in all weathers and we have the appropriate suits for the children to wear, although a spare set of clothes or waterproofs is always appreciated (in case they do get wet or muddy). Every child in Pear Class MUST have a pair of wellies in school. These can stay in school in our welly buckets – stored in Pear Class corridor.

When the weather begins to turn cold, could you please ensure that your child has a coat, hat, scarf and preferably a pair of mittens rather than gloves. It is incredibly helpful to us if **all clothing, shoes and wellies are named.**

School360 Learning Journals

The online journal is our way of recording your child's development and journey from Nursery through to the end of their Reception year. It includes photographs and observations of significant moments during their time with us which link to the Early Years Curriculum that we follow. As we usually run drop in sessions to explain these journals and RWI in more detail, we will be thinking up a new way to relay this information to you so please bear with us. If you are new to the school, you will be provided with the details to access your child's journal in the coming weeks. It would be extremely helpful if you could occasionally upload any 'wow' developmental moments at home so that I am able to see learning opportunities in your child's home context as well as at school.
If you already have the EYFS parent app you will need to download the newer version and delete the version you are currently using.

On Friday evenings I will upload our weekly learning onto our class page on the Swansfield Park School website – please visit this to find out all of the fun things we have been doing throughout the week and pictures of our learning in action. I will also upload pictures of our learning environment for you to see as at this time we cannot invite you into our classroom.
We look forward to an exciting year in Reception with your children. Together, we can ensure that Pear class children enjoy a successful year where they develop a real love for school and learning!
Remember I am always here to answer any questions, offer any support or listen to any concerns,

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