

Early Years Termly Leaflet

Spring 2024

Welcome

We hope you have had a relaxing and enjoyable Christmas break. We are looking forward to a new year and lots more exciting learning activities with your children.

The staff in Early Years are:

Mrs Hardie – Teacher

Mrs Di Fonzo – Teaching Assistant

Miss Mockridge – Teaching Assistant

Reminders

Wow! Moments

Please can you keep sharing 'wow' moments from home (a template will be emailed). They are wonderful additions to the children's learning journals as they really help paint the whole picture of your child, so please keep them coming! If you need more Wow! Moment sheets, please just ask.

Teacher Availability

As ever, our door is always open if you wish to discuss anything that affects your child with a member of staff. If you require a longer appointment, please arrange this through the office. Please keep important information brief in the morning, as it is necessary that we are there for the children to settle them in for their school day happily and safely. As always, you can email the office at admin@sandridge.herts.sch.uk and we will try to respond as appropriate. If it is anything urgent the office will communicate this with us during the school day. Please be aware that teaching staff often prepare afternoon learning during lunch times and so will usually check emails after school.

Doors open at **8.35am** (for 8.40am registering) and pick up is **11.40am** for Nursery and **3.10pm** for Reception. Please try to drop off and pick up punctually as lateness can be unsettling for children. Please inform the office if your child is unwell and remember it is school policy to keep children off school for 48 hours after the last 'incident' if your child has had a sickness bug or upset tummy.

Helping your child at home

You can help your child become independent at school by teaching them skills such as how to dress themselves, use the toilet and wash hands afterwards, and how to tidy up their own toys when they have finished with them. Now that the weather is colder, it would be a great help if you could work with your child on independently zipping up coats and putting on gloves.

Please continue to provide spare clothes and if your child borrows any spare school clothes, please return them (washed) as soon as possible. Thank you.

Fortnightly newsletters

We hope that you are finding our fortnightly newsletters useful and that they give you an update and insight into your child's learning. Remember to look out for the important notices and hopefully it will give you fresh ideas of how to help your child at home. We will let you know if we need anything specific via these newsletters or by email. Phonics and handwriting optional homework will continue for Reception children.

Library books are renewed each Monday once old books are returned. While you are reading to your child, encourage them to discuss the pictures, sequence the story and talk about what might happen next. Reading with your child is one of the most important things you can do to help their development. Why not try visiting a local library as well! Please tick/comment in the orange reading diary if these have been read.

Reception children will have reading books changed once a week, but days may vary. Please make sure that their reading books and orange reading diary are always in school. Please indicate if you have read with your child by ticking /making relevant comments in the comments box. Thank you.

What goes on in school.

The Outdoor Classroom

In Early Years, we use both indoor and outdoor spaces **every day** to develop the children's learning, whatever the weather – there is no such thing as bad weather, only bad clothing! Please could your child wear a **named** suitable coat **with a hood** that they can put on themselves (it is good for children to practise doing their coat up too) and **named welly boots to keep in school**. Please make sure your child has appropriate clothing for the weather – sun hats for summer weather and gloves, hats and scarves when it becomes colder. **Every item must be named!**

PE

Please can all children come to school dressed in PE kit on Monday & Thursday (if any extra PE days occur we will inform you in advance).

Thank you for your donations last term for our messy play, cooking and creative consumables and craft donations. It has meant that the children's learning has been enhanced by wonderful hands-on experiences. **To continue to provide these enriching experiences we request a small contribution of £10 each term, which should be paid via Arbor/School Shop.** Many thanks.

We learn and have fun!

Our topics this term are Winter and we will be exploring the theme 'If you go into the woods' which will include core stories from Julia Donaldson and Traditional Tales, beginning with The Gruffalo. We will also be learning about Chinese New Year. After half term we will carry on with Traditional Tales alongside Spring, Spring festivals and Easter.

We are looking forward to another fun, productive and exciting term in Early Years! Thank you so much for your continued support.