

Reception Bears

9th September 2021

Dear Parents/ Carers,

We have had a fantastic first few days with the children in Bears and we could not have done it without your understanding and support. Starting school is always a big step for children and parents alike and we really appreciate all your help in making the process as safe and as smooth as possible. So, a big thank you for all your cooperation and patience this week.

Over the last few days in Bears we have been getting to know each other and exploring our provision areas. This has been exciting seeing all the resources and activities the Bears enjoy. Next week we will start to introduce more structure to the day, with carpet sessions which will include literacy, phonics, maths, R.E. and our topic. You will receive a letter soon containing an outline of what our topic is and what we will be learning this half term.

Please find below some general information about Bears and our day-to-day routines.

Bears Staff

There are four members of staff who will be working in Bears class. Mrs Skelton who will be teaching the class on a Monday and Tuesday. Mrs Young who will be teaching the class on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Mrs Peace who is a teaching assistant with experience in Early Years, who will be working with the children full time and Mrs Hey who is an experienced higher-level teaching assistant, who will be teaching the class on a Tuesday and Friday morning.

Uniform

We ask that all items of uniform and personal possessions (especially cardigans and jumpers, water bottles and book bags) are clearly labelled with your child's name. This will enable us to make sure that any lost clothing or items are returned to the owners as quickly as possible.

P.E.

P.E. will take place every **Tuesday and Friday** in the hall or outside. Please ensure your child comes into school on these days wearing their P.E. Uniform. The Uniform consists of a white t-shirt and black shorts, with the option of a red hooded top and black jogging bottoms for cooler weather. These items should be as plain as possible, without logos (other than the Kirk Fenton logo) and clearly labelled with your child's name. Trainers should be black.

Behaviour

In Reception we use a daily chart to encourage and celebrate positive behaviour in class, particularly in the areas of good manners, listening and effort. Our chart is 'Going on a Bear Hunt' themed! During carpet time at the end of each day, we talk about the good behaviour of children on the chart and a sticker is given as a reward to those who have almost reached the top of

the chart. A certificate is awarded to those children who have gone 'above and beyond' by demonstrating outstanding behaviour throughout the day and have reached the top of the chart.

We also have a whole-school team point system. This consists of four teams: Blue Mustangs, Green Gladiators, Orange Spitfires and Purple Typhoons. Each child is allocated a team (those with older siblings have been placed in the same team as their sibling). Every time the child works hard, or does something special they will be given a team point. These points are then counted up at the end of the week and the winning team is awarded a trophy during our Good Work Assembly (see below for further information).

Numbots

In the coming weeks the children will be given a username and password for an online maths game called Numbots. This will help them with their counting, addition and subtraction skills. They can work through it at their own pace and once they have mastered a particular skill they can move on to the next level. We introduced this game last year and it has had a huge impact on the children's maths progression (for example, their instant recall of number bonds to 10). Just working on this game for half an hour every week will make a huge difference to your child's ability in maths. Each week one child will be selected and celebrated from the class who has worked hard on Numbots during the week.

Good Work Assemblies

Every Friday the children take part in a whole-school assembly which celebrates pupils who have worked particularly hard or made good progress in their learning. Every week two children are chosen from each class to receive a certificate in recognition of their efforts and their achievements and one child to receive a hot chocolate from the head award for being an 'always child'.

Reading Books

A letter outlining how we teach reading in school will be sent out to you shortly. The children change their reading books every Friday. On Fridays we will also be going to the school library, where each child will be given the opportunity to choose two books for the week. Please ensure these are brought back to school the following Friday, along with their reading book, so they can be changed.

Marvellous Me App

At Kirk Fenton we use an app called Marvellous Me, which enables teachers to send messages to the parents of children in their class, such as notifications, reminders and feedback. It is a great way of keeping you up to date with what is going on in class and your child's progress. You will receive a letter providing more information on this subject soon.

Tapestry

In Early Years we use an online learning journal called Tapestry to record your child's learning journey. Once you have signed up, you will receive emails containing updates/ observations of your child at school. We would love to see the learning your child does at home too, so please feel free to add this to Tapestry. If you need more information please ask at the office.

Photos

We have two displays in our classroom, one about families and one about the seasons. We would love to have some photos of your family to go on our family display, along with any summery photos you may have taken during the holidays for our season display. You can bring photos into school or email them to the following address: eyfsobservations@kf.starmat.uk

If you have any questions or concerns about your child or the class, please do not hesitate to email us through the school office. If you would prefer, a telephone conversation could also be arranged.

It has been a pleasure to meet the children this week. The Bears team look forward to sharing in their learning journey over the coming year.

Kind regards,
Mrs Young and Mrs Skelton