

Foundation Stage Newsletter

Welcome back! We hope you all had a lovely break and are ready for the busy term ahead.

Our themes

Our themes this term our themes are '**Dinosaurs**' and '**Farm**'. In 'Dinosaurs', a dinosaur egg has mistakenly arrived in school. The children have seen a news clip by two renowned palaeontologists: Dr Beth and Dr Kit, asking for help. They were on a 'dig' in Argentina when they discovered some eggs, they believe to be from the dinosaur era. The palaeontologists had the eggs carefully packed and sent back to England, however, once they returned, they found one egg missing. Dr Beth and Dr Kit have asked the children to keep the egg safe until they are able to have a courier collect it. The palaeontologists are going to be asking the children to help them discover what species of dinosaur it is, what it ate, the size and most importantly what it looks like. The children will be painting pictures of a new species of dinosaur and then writing descriptions about them. To make sure Dr Beth and Dr Kit know exactly what the dinosaur looks like they will be asking the children to create a scaled down 3Dimensional model in clay of the new species. In 'Farm', the children will be introduced to the story of Farmer Duck and learn that he needs help looking after the animals on his farm. The children will receive a mystery package from Farmer Duck and will be visiting Little Owl Farm Park (details to follow in a separate letter) to get a taste for farm life. The children will be writing messages to Farmer Duck as well as farmyard riddles. We will also do some baking. This term we will be solving lots of problems in our numeracy sessions, involving recognising and ordering numerals, recognising more /less and practical addition and subtraction alongside lots of imaginative work.

Phonics and reading

We are thrilled with the progress the children are making with their phonics and wish to thank you for the support you are giving them at home with both this and their reading. We are now beginning the next phase of our phonics programme, looking at consonant and vowel digraphs such as sh, ch, th, ng, ai, ee, and so on and introducing some more common exception words with actions to support the children's recognition of them.

Spare clothing

From time-to-time children will have unavoidable accidents. We endeavour to deal with these as calmly and discreetly as possible. In order to do this, it is really helpful if each child has a set of spare clothes in a bag on their peg. Whilst we have a small stock of spare clothing it is more comforting for your child to be wearing their own clothes.

EYFS workshops

This term we are offering another workshop. This will focus on developing children's early writing, numeracy and ICT skills. This will take place on Thursday 30th January at 18:00. We hope that you will be able to join us. They are not suitable to bring your children to and are for adults only. Invitations to the workshop will be sent out to you next week.

P.E.

This term, we will be doing ball skills, fundamentals, gymnastics and dance. When the weather permits, fundamentals and balls skills will take place outside, so we recommend that children have their black shorts, white T-shirt, black plimsolls, black tracksuit and trainers for outdoor use. If your child wears tights, please make sure there is a pair of ankle socks to change into in their PE bag.

Class mascots

Colin the Crocodile and Edward the Elephant have their suitcases packed and will continue to come home with the children each week this term (please return to school on a Monday). They would love to take part in your everyday family activities. Perhaps they could watch your child's swimming lesson or go for a walk or a bike ride with them? All we ask is that you take some photos and do some writing or drawing with your child to add to their diaries. It would be lovely if every child could contribute to the diary over the course of the school year. If you have a special day out or holiday planned see your child's teacher to book the mascot in for some extra fun family time with you. Many thanks to all those who have looked after Colin and Edward already this year.

Learning Journey observations

Thank you to all those parents who have sent in observations from home, they have been fantastic and there are definitely some gold stars for some families who have sent in regular observations. As said in the Autumn workshops, your contributions are needed to help build up your child's learning journey and to send us evidence that we will never get the chance to see in school. Please send anything and everything into us, this could be on a post it note, piece of paper, the back of a cereal box or photographs. Remember you can email straight to us too:

scampion@lyppardgrange.worcs.sch.uk - Crocodiles

gfogwill@lyppardgrange.worcs.sch.uk - Elephants

Please remember as stated in the Autumn workshops that these email addresses are strictly for sending in evidence for your children. They are only checked weekly, so please do not send general correspondence via these emails as it will not be seen or responded to.

To get messages to your child's class teacher please send in a note that is given direct to class teacher on the door and NOT in book bags as these too are only checked weekly.

Beginning and end of day routines

Thank you for your support at the beginning and end of the day as the children are now becoming very independent at organising themselves. Whilst we do our utmost to ensure that every child has all of their belongings at the end of a day there may be times when they need to re-enter the building to collect a forgotten item. If this is the case, we ask that you wait until every child has been dismissed to avoid congestion at the door. Likewise, if you need to speak to a teacher at the end of the day, please wait until every child has been dismissed before approaching staff to ensure that all children have a clear view to their parents. Thank you. Although we understand many children will be going on to other activities after school, we cannot guarantee which child or class will be first out. Whichever class is ready first will be first to leave and the children will have joined their class lines in a fair and orderly fashion.

Finally, many thanks for your support and comments last term and for the cards and gifts we received for Christmas.

With thanks for your support this term,

Gemma Fogwill, Sarah Campion and Katherine Grindrod (Class teachers)



Katrina Hine, Kerry Horne, Becky Godfrey and Rachel Hackett (Teaching Assistants)