



DUNNINGTON C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

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EYFS Curriculum Newsletter – Autumn Term 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to the start of a new school year! The children have made such a positive start and are adapting to school life well. Thank you for your on-going support with this - we are looking forward to a happy and successful year with your children. As you are already aware, the EYFS team for the year is made up of:

- Mrs Elliott – EYFS Phase Leader & Class Teacher (Monday - Thursdays)
- Mrs Subritzky – Class Teacher (Fridays)
- Mrs Midgley – Teaching Assistant

Our Learning

A curriculum overview will shortly be available on the website, which outlines planned topics and areas of study for the year ahead. Whilst this is our long term plan, we are led by the children's interests and so this will act as a guide, subject to review and change as and when the children's interests change. The over-arching theme for this term is 'I wonder what is special', which should allow us to incorporate a vast array of mini topics. We are starting the year looking at 'All About Me', thinking about our 'unique' selves and our feelings; we will then be moving on to look at families and friends. This will really allow the children to get to know one another and share their thoughts and feelings on a topic they can discuss more easily.

As you will already be aware, the DFE have introduced a new EYFS framework, commencing September 2021. This means that your child will follow the new updated EYFS framework and will work towards the final assessment at the end of the Reception year, using the new ELGs (Early Learning Goals). These goals are short statements that teachers assess your child against at the end of the year. The 7 main areas of learning remain the same as previous years. These are:

Communication & Language		Physical Development		Personal, Social and Emotional Development	
Literacy	Mathematics	Expressive Arts and Design	Understanding the World		

As part of the changes to the new framework, it also means that there is less emphasis on recording paperwork, meaning we, as adults, can spend more time with your child getting to know them and having those quality interactions. The new framework is also more aligned with the KS1 curriculum, further ensuring your child's educational journey from Reception to KS1 is building upon previous knowledge.



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As part of the new framework, from September 2021, each child is obliged to complete the Reception Baseline Assessment (RBA). This is a short, interactive and practical assessment of your child's early literacy, communication, language and mathematics skills when they begin in school. It will be undertaken with myself over the next few weeks and the data will be used by the DFE to measure your child's progress from Reception to Year 6. The data from the assessment, including numerical scores, is not shared with you, pupils, teachers, or external bodies, including schools, and there will be no published scores at pupil, school or national level. The RBA will, however, allow me to spend quality 1:1 time with your child getting to know them and it will provide an insight into whether they need any further support in certain areas. A useful parent booklet explaining more about the RBA is included with this letter. If you have any further questions after reading this, then please feel free to contact me.

General Information

There is a Reception class information page on the school website, where you will be able to find copies of letters, homework and information about curriculum activities. From time to time, we may share photographs and videos on our web page – if you have not already done so, please notify the school office if you do not want pictures or videos of your child to be used. In addition, activities in the classroom may sometimes involve children baking or eating - it is therefore very important that you let us know at the start of the year if your child has any food allergies or if you do not want them to be involved in food tasting.

In Reception, each child has their own peg near to their classroom, which is for larger items such as coats, bags of spare clothing and PE kits. Initially, we are planning to do PE on a Wednesday afternoon; however, there may be other impromptu PE activities or changes in the timetable so it is advisable to leave P.E. kits in school all week and take them home to be washed at the weekend. The school PE kit consists of a 'named' plain white T-shirt and black shorts. Trainers will be needed for outdoor PE and perhaps a tracksuit or black jogging bottoms for the colder months. Earrings must be removed for PE - any child who cannot remove their earrings will not be able to take part in sessions. Please notify us in writing or by e-mail in advance if your child is unable to participate in PE for any reason.

We are planning to complete a Forest schools activity each week. This will take place outdoors and as a result, your child may need wellies and a waterproof kept in school. We are lucky enough that we have enough cloakroom space to accommodate this and would be grateful if you could send these in with your child.

It is also handy if your child has a bookbag in school with them. We will keep these in the classroom and will use them to transport letters and also reading books and reading records once we feel that the children are starting to get a secure grasp of phonics. It is important to note that new guidance advises that children should only be 'reading' fully decodable books, aligned to their growing phonics knowledge. As a result, your child will be issued with a 'reading' book according to their phonics level; we will also send home a 'story to share', which, although not fully decodable, can be enjoyed with an adult. The children will have a reading record, which can be used to track their weekly reading and phonics practice. Please keep these in bookbags and feel free to write any comments you may have in your child's reading record.

All children in Reception have been given a school water bottle, which they will need in school to keep hydrated throughout the day. These will be sent home daily for washing and refilling before coming to school the next day.

If you have older children in school, you may already be aware that KS1 have a weekly 'birthday' assembly, where we celebrate the birthdays from the previous week. This year the assembly will take place on a Thursday and you will be notified when it is your child's week. Unfortunately, we will not be having parents in school for these due to Covid guidance; however, we would encourage your child to bring in one birthday present, in a labelled bag, which they can show and tell during the assembly.



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Seesaw

As discussed at the new starter meeting in July, we will be using Seesaw this year to facilitate home-school communication and this would also be used for remote learning, if required. In order to set up your Seesaw account, we need you to return your permission slip to school. If you have not completed this already, please do so and we can forward details of your login and password.

A request

Your child may have told you that we have a 'home' corner within the classroom. I am planning for this space to evolve and change each week to facilitate imaginative play and enhance communication skills.



Last week the children were introduced to the space and were role-playing 'decorating' their new house, with many of them experimenting with different fabric, wallpaper and paint samples. This week the children will be unboxing the furniture and setting up their home. I would really like to be able to put up a 'family' photo on the wall for each of the children (Note: no names will be displayed with the photos). I therefore wondered if you would be able to send a family photo into school (either hard copy or by email) at your earliest convenience. These pictures can be any size, but should include your child as well as family members!

And finally...

Please email us as soon as possible (or catch us at the end of the day) if you have any concerns regarding your child, however trivial they may seem. We have included our e-mails for any non-urgent issues and we will endeavour to reply to these as soon as possible. Anyone needing a quick response should phone the school in the usual way.

We look forward to a successful and fun year ahead.

Kind Regards,

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Louise Midgley

