



## *'Spurring each other on with love'*

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Headteacher: Mrs Tameka Hue Hamilton

Monday 15th September 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are looking forward to spending a full week with the children! They are likely to be extremely tired by the end of the week.

The children really enjoyed staying for lunch last week. We were so impressed with how they remembered their orders, carried their plates carefully, settled at the tables and used a knife and fork. Please encourage them to do this at home as well.

### Literacy

This week, we will be reading rhyming stories and thinking of rhyming strings. The children will also be talking about what they like and dislike about some of the stories they have heard. Using their increasing vocabulary to explain why.

We will also be reading, *My Family, Your Family* by Laura Henry-Allain. The children will be encouraged to tell us about their families and who they live with, and noticing that not all families are the same. Thank you for the family photos that have been sent in.

### Phonics

We will be spending time playing listening games. Being able to hear sounds in the environment is the first step in being able to hear sounds in words. The children were introduced to Fred Frog last week. They really enjoyed working out what Fred was saying ie: Fred likes to s...k...i...p - skip. We call this blending. We will be continuing with this during this week's phonics sessions. The following link is for a short phonics activity that we have had a go at this week.

<http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/gwnhvJmm/bSQbmfCg>

<http://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/MXnl9ORe/lVOLvm3n>

Next week, we are holding a 'How we teach phonics' session. In this afterschool session we will go through how we approach teaching phonics and how you can help at home. (Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> September at 3:30)

## Numeracy



In maths, we will be focusing on noticing what is around us, subitising and spotting when we can see a group of 3. Young children's brains are able to instantly recognise up to 3 from a very young age. We will be playing a game called 'Three or not Three'. The children have a couple of seconds to say if what they see shows a group of 3 or not. This a great game to play at home or when you are out and about but don't count! 3 or not 3 game - [What can you see? 3 or not 3? - True or false \(wordwall.net\)](#)

What is subitising? The children will be asked what they can see, what they notice and how they can see it. This isn't about counting. It's about noticing groups and patterns. Being able to subitise is a key maths skill. The following video briefly explains subitising. [Math tips: What is subitizing? - YouTube](#)

We will also be matching, sorting and comparing items and groups of objects.

## Other areas:

- In PE, the children will be playing a variety of listening games. Our PE slot in on Friday. To start with the children will take off their shoes and socks rather than changing into their full PE kits, as this takes quite some time with 30 children! Please may we remind you that children are not allowed to wear earrings in PE, these will need to be removed before school. If they have earrings in, unfortunately, they will have to sit out of the lesson. This is for health and safety reasons.
- Writing names.
- Dough Disco - the children really enjoyed their first 'Dough Disco' session last week. This helps to improve their fine motor control and arm muscles.
- Making envelope houses and filling them with the people we live with.
- Painting portraits.
- Talking about the importance of washing our hands.
- Making faces using a variety of loose parts. Eg: nuts, bolts, ribbon, wool, pom poms etc.

## Reminders:

- Please make sure all uniform, coats and book bags are named, including shoes. There have already been a few mix-ups due to unnamed belongings.
- The children shouldn't be bringing toys into school. They easily get lost and broken.
- Please personalise your child's home school diary. This could be with a sticker or by writing their name in larger letters. The children are asked to collect their diary at the end of the day, but lots are struggling to find theirs as they obviously all look the same. Those children whose diaries already have stickers on, are able to find them straight away.
- Earrings must be small gold or silver studs.
- Merits - At the back of the home school diaries there is a page for merits. The children are awarded a merit when they have worked hard, met one of their targets or have really impressed us with an aspect of their learning. Once they get 10, they are presented with a certificate. They then start working towards the next colour certificate.
- Library books are changed on a Monday, so need to be in the bags on that day.
- The children can bring in their own fresh fruit or vegetable snack if they want. They can have this in addition to the snack provided in school.
- Please ensure that the children aren't running around by the school carpark in the mornings and at the end of the day. The carpark is in use all day and it's not safe for them to playing on the paths near the carpark.

- All children under five years are entitled to free school milk. This is sent into school for you child unless you have opted out. Some of the children are telling us they don't like milk or don't want it. For these children, we are sending the milk home, so you are aware that they don't want it. Your child can be taken off the school milk list. Please contact the school office if you would like this to happen.
- If someone other than yourself is collecting your child, please let us know by phoning the school or writing in the dairy. We won't let your child go with someone we haven't been told about or already know is allowed.
- The children should only have water in their drink bottles. It has been noticed that quite a few of the children have juice.
- If you ever have a question or a message, please write in the home school diary or email school and we will get back to you.
- PPA (planning, preparation and assessment time) happens on a Thursday afternoon. During this time, myself and Mrs Vanstone are not in the classrooms but working elsewhere in school. Miss Freeman and Mr Cooper will be teaching RE and computing, in class.

If you have any queries, please don't hesitate to come and see us!

Best Wishes from the Foundation Stage Team

Red Bears - Mrs O'Toole, Mrs Bond and Mrs Slade

Blue Bears - Mrs Vanstone, Mr Cooper, Mrs Greenslade and Miss Christian

### The Nothing Poem

When children come home  
 At the end of the day,  
 There's a question they're asked  
 As they're rushing to play...  
 "What did you do in school today?"  
 "Nothing! I did nothing today!"

But nothing can mean that I played with blocks,  
 Tied my own shoes or found beautiful rocks,  
 Maybe the butterflies hatched today,  
 Or maybe I found a new friend to play.  
 Maybe today was the very first time,  
 My scissors followed a very straight line,  
 Perhaps I learned a new song  
 And sang all the words,  
 Or stroked the feathers of a beautiful bird.

When you're in school and your heart has wings,  
 'Nothing' can mean some wonderful things!