



## Welcome to Kirkstead

### Autumn Term 2024 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you and your child/children have all had a relaxing summer and that they are looking forward to the beginning of their new school adventure. I would like to take this opportunity to share all the Kirkstead routines with you and everything you need to know to get this year off to a great start.

#### Drop off/Pick Up

The day will start with the children coming in through the KS1 gate which will be open at **8.35am**. Please bring your child to the KS1 playground. The bell will ring at **8.40am**, at which point the children will line up in their classes and be led inside by their class teacher for the register. For this first week, you are initially invited to bring your child through the classroom and help them find their coat peg and tray before saying your goodbyes. Then the KS1 gate will be opened at **3:10pm** and the children will be collected from the classroom door at **3.15pm**.

#### Topic

For the first term, our topic is, '**Marvellous Me**'. The children will be finding out about each other, talking about themselves and what makes them unique, talking about their families, learning about people in different communities and exploring emotions. They will be learning about different body parts and what they do. They will also be learning rhymes and songs and creating self-portraits.

If your child has any books related to our topic, fiction or non-fiction, and they wouldn't mind sharing them with the class, please send them in.

#### Reading and Phonics

The children will be taught daily phonics using our fantastic scheme Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised. Alongside our phonics scheme, we have a range of **fully decodable** reading books that your child will read in school and at home. These phonics books will include sounds that your child has learnt and they will have shared the book with an adult in school before they bring it home. Initially the children will bring home wordless books until they are able to blend words.

In addition to the phonics book, they will also take home a 'sharing' book that they will **not** be able to read independently and is designed to be shared with a grown-up. They may, of course, choose to read something they have at home for this instead.

Phonics books will be sent home on a **Friday** from week 4. Please return them on the following **Friday**. The books are a valuable resource and we kindly ask that you keep the books in good condition so they last as long as possible. Sharing books will be changed on a **Monday** and **Wednesday**.

Every child will have a 'Home School Record' with their reading books for yourself and us to record when your child has read. Please ensure that it is in school **every day**. Dojo points are awarded for daily reading, but only if the home school record is signed. If the home school record is not signed, or if the book is not returned to school, your child will not be able to choose a different book.

Please attend our phonics and reading parent workshop on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September at 9am for more information about how we teach phonics in our school and about how you can support your child in reading at home.

### Mathematics

In the first few weeks the children will explore routines and timings, they will be encouraged to develop their positional language as they talk about the objects in their outdoor and indoor provision. The children will be learning about and practising subitising up to 4. They will be singing a range of counting songs and practising counting objects, actions and sounds up to 5. They will look at the composition of numbers to 5 and ways of representing numbers to 5 too. They will also be comparing amounts and identifying which group has fewer and which has more. The aim is to embed a good understanding of number.

### P.E.

PE will take place every week on **Tuesday**. Please send your child to school in their PE kit with their school uniform and school shoes in a separate bag ready to get changed into after PE. All of your child's school uniform, shoes and PE kit must be named. The P.E kit should be appropriate for indoor and outdoor P.E and should consist of a **white t-shirt and black shorts**.

### Forest School

The children will be taking part in weekly outdoor Forest School sessions and they will **need to have clothing appropriate to the weather**. This should consist of named waterproofs and wellies or boots. This clothing will be kept at school until the end of the term.

### Homework

Homework will be given out each Friday in the homework folder and it is expected to be back in school on the following Thursday. The children will receive a phonics home learning task every week.

### Baseline Assessments

In the first 6 weeks, each child will be participating in the reception baseline assessment (RBA). The purpose of the assessment is to provide the starting point to measure the progress schools make with their pupils. The RBA is a short, interactive and practical assessment of your child's early literacy, communication, language and mathematics skills when they begin school, using materials that most children of your child's age will be familiar with. It was statutory for all schools from September 2021. For more details on the baseline assessment you can speak to the class teacher and also visit [www.gov.uk/STA](http://www.gov.uk/STA).

### Fruit and Water

The children will be given a healthy snack (piece of fruit) each day. We encourage drinking water regularly so please send your child in with fresh water every day in a named water bottle.

### Picking up after school

If someone other than the usual person will be picking up your child after school, please let us know. Thank you.

Mrs Nicholson & Mrs Allitt

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