

Foundation Class Newsletter

Autumn Term 2021



Welcome

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to Foundation at Clare House. It is great to see the children settling into school life so well and thank you for all the work you have done in order to prepare your children to start school. We are very much looking forward to the year ahead and have so many exciting activities coming up this term.

The Team

The Foundation class teachers are Mrs Clent in FC and Mrs Rees in FR. Working with the teachers are the teaching assistants. In FC this is Mrs Stevenson and in FR it is Miss Ferguson.

Diary Dates

Wednesday 15th September EYFS Reading Meeting 6:00pm - 6:30pm

Monday 18th October - Friday 29th October Half term break

Friday 5th November Class Individual Photos

Monday 15th November Flu Nasal Spray Vaccinations

Friday 17th December End of Autumn Term

The Curriculum

The Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum is divided into 7 areas of learning:

Prime Areas:

1. Personal, social and emotional development
2. Physical Development
3. Communication and Language

Specific Areas:

4. Literacy
5. Mathematics
6. Understanding the world
7. Expressive Arts & Design

In the Foundation classes the different areas are usually integrated, although Literacy and Mathematics have separate inputs.

PE

FC will have PE on Wednesday

FR will have PE on Friday

The children are taken for PE by our PE teacher, Ms Barzdenyte.

Our Topic

For the first few weeks we will focus on getting to know Clare House, school life, friends, teachers and rules to keep us safe and happy. Not to mention exploring all our fantastic equipment! This will be part of our topic '**Amazing Me**'. We will be learning about each other and our families and the languages we speak at home. We will also explore '**People Who Help Us**' where we will be learning about the superheroes within our school and within the community.

After half term we will move to our topic '**Celebrations**' and will be looking at various events from cultures around the world in the lead up to Christmas.

We will be posting '**This week in Reception**' every Friday on the website to inform you of what we have been doing in class. We also love to know when there is something your child has done for the first time or they have really made progress in something and we can share this with the class with the '**WOW**' moment sheets, which have been sent home. We really like to incorporate parent/carers observations of each child alongside our own observations at school.

Skills for Life

Whatever we teach we aim to encourage the development of the following learning behaviours and skills, taken in their broadest sense. We teach these skills through our class animals that represent different characteristics of effective learning. These are:

- I know Rhino - I play with what I know
- Have a go Gorilla - I will have a go
- Slinky Linky Snake - I can make links
- Choosing Chimp - I can choose ways to do things
- Persevering Parrot - I keep trying
- Exploring Elephants - I am an explorer
- Creative Chameleon - I have my own ideas
- Proud Peacock - I am proud of what I do
- Concentrating Crocodile - I join in and concentrate

Literacy

Clare House Primary School uses the Sounds-Write programme to teach Phonics, which is taught through daily sessions. The children will have a whole class input followed by group tasks. Following the input they will take part in a teacher led activity and will access resources linked to this sound through the continuous provision in the indoor and outdoor area. We teach handwriting which the children begin by pattern making and exercises to develop their gross and fine motor skills.

Maths

We aim to give the children a thorough understanding of number to 10. To count beyond 10 and develop an understanding of patterns in the number system. The children are supported to **subitise** (recognise small amounts without counting) and to recognise smaller numbers within larger ones. The concepts of pattern, shape, measure and classification are taught across the curriculum.

Helping your child at home

Soon your child will be bringing home reading material to read with you. Please support your child with learning letter sounds and asking them to read to you daily. Reading aloud to your child is an extremely valuable activity as it gives the child access to books they are not able to read on their own. Non-fiction is just as useful as fiction; read whatever your child is interested in! The **"This week in Reception"** overview will give you information about what has been covered that week, and what will be covered the following week, to help you support what we are doing in school.

Extra materials

In Reception we are always grateful for any materials such as out of date rice, pasta, flour, cornflour, or other dried foods which can be used in a variety of ways. We would also be grateful for boxes (large and small) and other materials for junk modelling, textiles, as well as clean straw, sawdust, and shredded and scrap paper. We will usually be able to use it in some way and most offers or materials will be gratefully received!

Housekeeping

Just a quick reminder:

- We provide free fruit snacks for the children.
- Please ensure your child brings their labelled water bottle with them each day.
- Please make sure your child is adequately dressed for the weather.
- **Please ensure that all clothing is clearly named (including socks).**
- In your child's book bag there is a contact book for messages:
Please leave contact books open in the book bag to indicate there is a message to read.
- EYFS children enter through Gate 1 from 8.40am and the register is taken at 9.00am. We want the children to walk into the class independently so please encourage them with this.
- Please put a spare pair of knickers/pants and socks/tights in your child's book bag in case they have an accident whilst they are at school.

If you have any problems or queries, please do not hesitate to contact us. Please write in the contact book if there is something you would like to discuss with either of us.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Mrs Clent, Mrs Rees, Mrs Stevenson and Miss Ferguson.