

## Welcome to Foundation 2

Your child is now in Foundation 2 (which consists of 2 parallel classes). Here is some information that you may find useful. If you have any other questions please do not hesitate to see your child's class teacher.

### Staff:

Hawthorn Class is taught by Miss Daye (Monday- Thursdays) Mrs Lane is the teacher on Fridays (The main Teaching Assistant for the class is Mrs Iliffe. Other TA's who work in the class part time are: Mrs Khosla, Mrs Breen and Mrs Burton

Rowan Class is taught by Miss Forster. The main teaching assistant for the class is Mrs Beresford who works Monday to Thursdays. Other TA's who work in Rowan Class are Mrs Burton, Mrs Porter, Mrs Breen and Mrs Khosla, Mrs Middleton

Mrs Meredith teaches on Tuesday afternoons.

The Foundation Stage Phase Leaders are: Mrs Cunnold and Mrs Young who both teach in Chestnut Class (Foundation 1)

### (Timings:

It is very important that children attend school regularly and are punctual. School gates open at 8.30, classroom doors open at 8.40. Please ensure that the children are in the playground before 8.45 so they are settled before register time which is 8.50.

Home time is 3.05.

### Safeguarding:

If someone different is going to pick your child up from school please inform the school office or class teacher. We will not be able to let your child go with them unless this has been done. This also applies if you bring your child in late. Thank you for your cooperation.

### Uniform:

#### **PLEASE ENSURE THAT ALL CLOTHING IS CLEARLY NAMED.**

All children should be dressed in school uniform. The school uniform is as follows:

- **Bright blue sweatshirt, cardigan or fleece -**
- **Black or grey trousers, skirts or pinafore dresses** (no jeans, including black denim)
- **A white or blue polo shirt, blouse or shirt** (with or without school logos)
- **Black sensible shoes (VELCRO fastenings please or black ankle boots** (no high-tops, sandals or heels)
- **Black or grey plain socks, tights or leggings**
- In summer, girls may wear blue school dresses
- No jewellery apart from small, discrete stud earrings and for religious reasons
- Hair will be dye free and make up is not allowed including nail varnish

In addition, all pupils must have a P.E. kit (in a named drawstring bag) in school consisting of:

- **Black/blue shorts**
- White T-shirt (or blue with the school badge)
- Socks (white, black or grey)
- Plimsolls.

**Long hair must be tied back for PE and earrings removed.**

Hawthorn Class has PE on Mondays. Rowan Class has PE on Tuesdays. **It is important that children have their PE kit in school EVERY DAY.**

Please teach your child to dress and undress independently. Please don't give your child lace up shoes as very young children cannot tie shoelaces themselves.

**Assemblies:** Each class will do a class assembly this year, which parents are invited to attend. Details of dates will be on the school website. Celebration Assembly will be on a Friday at 9am. If your child is in the Celebration Assembly we will let you know in advance.

**Dinner times:** Hawthorn Dinnertime is 11.30-11.55am. For the Autumn Term 2018 Hawthorn and Rowan class staff sit with the children at dinnertimes and serve their dinners. We call this our 'family sitting' and this enables the children to settle smoothly into the dinnertime routine. This always works very well. From **January 2019** the F2 children will go up to the hatch in the hall and inform the cook of their choice of dinner. The F2 staff will assist them with this until the end of the academic year. However if you have a concern about dinner times please feel free to see your child's class teacher who will be only too happy to help. **Please let the office know if you wish to swap from school dinner/packed lunch.**

**Curriculum:** In the Foundation Stage we follow the **Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum which is based on the 7 areas of learning and focuses on the development of the whole child.** Please look at the school website for the outline of the topics we will cover over the year. There will also be more detailed information about what we will cover each half-term. We are hoping to do our school trip in the Autumn Term to Abbey Park. More details to follow.

**Maths:** We follow a scheme called White Rose, which places a lot of importance in F2 on accuracy of counting to 5, 10 and 20, as well as basic maths skills such as colour match and naming; shapes and their properties; the recognition of numbers to 20 and basic calculation skills such as addition and subtraction activities.

**Communication, Language and Literacy:** When the children enter F2 we focus on very much on the developing good speaking and listening skills, particularly on the ability to speak in full sentences.

**Physical:** Young children physical skills develop at different rates and a young child will often struggle to hold a pencil or crayon. In the Foundation stage we take a big focus on the children's fine and gross motor development. The children take part in lots of activities to strengthen and develop their large and small motor movements. When a child is ready to hold a pencil correctly and has good grip and control only then do we look at their handwriting skills. We teach the children how to write their name first forming all the letters correctly. We use lower case letters except for the start of names, sentences etc.

**Storytimes:** Story time is an important part of the day in the foundation stage as it teaches the children to sit and listen as well as develop their language skills. We will read books together as a whole class (shared reading), sing songs and nursery rhymes and read together in small groups (guided reading). The children's reading will be assessed regularly to ensure that they are being given the correct level of reading book. Please note that the reading assessment looks at how well children can answer questions about what they have read as well as how well they can 'decode' the words. Children's decoding skills are often ahead of their comprehension skills.

**Supporting your child's learning at home:** It will really benefit your child if you can help them with learning at home. The most important thing is to be **positive** and **patient**. Don't worry if your child doesn't learn something straight away! Keep sessions short and snappy. Little and often is best.

### **Reading:**

A child can take home **1 book** in their book bag a day; either a storybook or as the year progresses a reading book for them to read to you. This reading activity is important in helping your child learn to read. Please find a short time daily to support your child with reading. Please keep the books safe, away from younger children. Damaged books will be charged for. Children can change their book daily. If there is a problem with a book please see the teacher so that we can address this.

### **Sight words:**

Many children will be given sets of words to learn. We call these 'sight words'. These words need to be recognized as whole words rather than 'sounded out'. We encourage the children to **SEE THE WORD, SAY THE WORD**. When your child has learned all the words in a set they will get a certificate and a new set of words. Please spend a few minutes practising these words

**Phonics:** We follow the KTC approach to teaching Phonics which consists of whole class teaching. The children have a 20 minute session every day. However to enable the child to hear and distinguish different sounds we teach a variety of activities that encourage and help the children to **'tune into sounds'** first! This focuses on good listening skills which is vital if a child is going to be able to hear and distinguish different letter sounds for reading and writing.

**Handwriting:** The children in Hawthorn and Rowan classes will participate in handwriting practice once a week as well as taking part in many other fine motor activities such as **'Finger Gym'** to develop their muscle strength and pencil control.

**Family Challenge:** There will be a family challenge homework activity that will be set each half term with a prize for the winning entry! Details to follow.

**Cooking:** The children will participate in a cooking activity on alternate Fridays; this is only basic cooking such as making sandwiches or icing biscuits/cakes as we do not have an oven at school. However, the children get a great deal of fun from cooking and learn all about sharing, taking turns and learning simple science facts. Each term we will ask parents to pay a small amount to cover the cost of the ingredients.

**Labelling uniform:** Every week we have children who have lost a school jumper or some other item of uniform because it does not have their name in. Please can you ensure that you label every item of your child's school uniform clearly so as to avoid the item ending up in the lost property box.

**Coats:** Please ensure that your child brings a coat to school EVERY DAY. In the Foundation stage the children spend a lot of time participating in our outdoor curriculum sometimes even in rainy weather, so it is vital that your child has their coat at school to avoid the disappointment of not being able to go outside.

### **How else can you help?**

- Please let staff know of anything that happens at home that may impact on your child's behaviour/ ability to learn at school.
- Please ensure that your child gets enough sleep and eats healthily. If you have any concerns please see the school nurse. (Number available from the office).
- Limit screen time, especially before bedtime.
- Talk to your child in your first language!
- Invite friends round for play dates.
- Please visit an optician to have your child's vision tested. This is not done in school.

### **Problems/Concerns**

If you have any problems or concerns, please discuss them with your child's teacher. Sometimes issues can be dealt with at the classroom door, however if you need a longer chat it is best to arrange to see the teacher after school. If the problem is not resolved then please contact Mrs Cunnold or Mrs Young.

### **Suggestions:**

The school is intending to hold workshops for parents later in the year. Please let us know what would be helpful to you.

We look forward to having a great year with your child!!

Foundation 2 Staff