



**Welcome to The Early
Years Owl
Spring Term 2019**

Early Years Teacher: Mrs Tansley

Early Years Teaching Assistant: Mrs Chisnall

Thank you for our Christmas gifts and Happy New Year to you all. We send a warm welcome to our new children Tom and Ronnie.

If you ever have any worries, concerns or questions please feel free to make an appointment to speak to us, or if it is just a brief word then just pop in before or after school.

Thank you for your continued support.

The Early Years Team.

Welcome back to the Spring term. The children have made a wonderful start and we are very impressed with how well the children have settled into school life and are happy to explore all activities. They are becoming very independent at hanging up their coats and bags in the morning, putting on their coats at playtimes and collecting and putting away things in their own bag.

In the Early Years we are always actively promoting and encouraging the children to become independent and would like to say a big well done to all the children.

Of course, teaching staff will always be on hand to help but children feel a real sense of achievement when they can accomplish things by themselves! Thank you for your support with this. We also understand there may be days when your child needs to be settled or needs a few more minutes with their parent and you will always be welcome in the classroom.

In order to get a prompt start to our activities in the morning we would appreciate it if the early years children could be in class by 8.55am.

Our aim is to make your child's learning experience exciting and enjoyable through delivering a creative and stimulating curriculum based on the skills highlighted in the Early Years Framework. Whenever possible learning will be linked to a theme or topic.

This term our topics are **Space (continuing from Autumn term), Dinosaurs and Spring into Spring.**

During **Communication and Language and Literacy** activities the children will learn all about dinosaurs through non-fiction books before meeting some of the storybook varieties. The children will ask questions and share their own knowledge and extend their vocabulary, they will read about dinosaurs, become

palaeontologists and create a class information book. They will then read dinosaur stories, thinking about beginnings, middles and endings before writing their own three-part stories about dinosaur encounters.

In Spring into Spring, the children will observe signs of spring, discuss their thoughts, ideas and feelings about it, and write a caption for an illustration. The children will read non-fiction text about birds, explore how birds care for their young, and write labels for a diagram to provide readers with specific information. We will then focus on appreciating how different cultures link springtime to important religious celebrations. The children will make predictions when hearing stories, share their experiences and feelings and write factual statements, describing their hopes for spring.

We will have a separate daily phonics session.

In **Mathematics** the children will be reciting numbers to 100. They will order numerals to at least 10 and count up to 20 objects, actions or sounds. The children will practice saying the next number (without counting from 1) and will add 1 or 2 to any number up to 20. They will explore the different ways to partition sets of ten objects and will begin early subtraction – guessing how many are hiding. They will read number sentences and begin to record the numbers to 10.

We will sort, name and describe 2D and 3D shapes and explore symmetry and continue a repeating pattern with three colours/shapes/objects. We will compare two weights using the language of heavier and lighter and the use of non-standard units. They will recognise 1p, 2p, 5p and 10p coins and solve practical problems involving money. We will read o'clock on an analogue and digital clock and begin to know months of the year, including important months, e.g. birthday, celebrated festivals.

Home Learning

All Early Years children will have a library book to take home to share each week. Please comment on your child's reading at home in the reading record. **Reception** children **will** also have a reading book and additional phonic activities, which may include words to blend, handwriting and spellings. Please comment on your child's reading in their record book and read with your child daily. Thank you to all those parents who have been regularly helping their child to participate and complete their home learning.

Pinkie Pie The children have really enjoyed taking part and sharing their adventures. We look forward to hearing more. Pinkie Pie will be sent home on a Friday. Please return her by Thursday.

Reminders

All children require a **water bottle** in school.

Please ensure **Book Bags** are in school **every day** with their reading record, books and their Home/School Communication book inside. Please check your child's bag for messages and take out any letters or pictures every night.

Please ensure full **PE kit** is in school at **all times**, including trainers or plimsolls, T-Shirt, shorts, tracksuit/jogging bottoms and a sweatshirt/fleece/hoody for outdoors.

Outdoor play Now that it is very cold please ensure your child has a warm coat, hat, gloves and scarf for outdoor play. We will be going outside in most weather conditions.

Please ensure you **name all items of clothing** (including footwear, hats, scarfs and gloves) clearly.