

Shark and Rainbowfish Class Information

Book bags- These **MUST** be brought into school every day. Inside your child's book bag should be your child's reading pouch (please ensure everything is in your child's book pouch). Please do not put your child's drink bottle inside as they often leak and ruin their reading book and records. Any communication or letters will be placed inside their book bags at the end of the day or sent via school comms. If you send any letters to us, please put them in the book bag as well.

Topic Theme- We have a range of topics throughout the year, and these will change on a regular basis (around every 2 weeks). Topics are changed based on a combination of the children's interests and topics we would like the children to learn about. Topics will be communicated via the weekly newsletter.

Reading- Reading record, reading book, phonic fan and word cards will be sent home in a reading pouch every day. The expectation for reading is that reading is completed at home every night for 10 minutes. Children will be coming home with a phonically decodable book, which is matched to their individual phonic level. Children are expected to read this book themselves; this is not a book for parents to read to their child. School's expectation is that this phonic book will be read 4 times across the week. Comments are recorded into your child's reading record. Your child's phonic book may appear easy to read, however, it will reinforce the phonics we have learnt. We are expecting the book to be read 4 times a week to increase fluency, confidence and expression- all these skills we discussed at our phonics meeting. Your child will also have coloured Super Sight Word cards to work through. Children will be tested once a week to see if they can read all the words on the card. If they can read all five words fluently and by sight, another card will be added to learn, if they are still not able to read them, they will keep the same card for the following week.

Dream Book- Each week, on a Wednesday (after half term), your child will come home with a dream book. These books have been carefully selected by staff to ensure that children read a breadth of stories and to inspire a love for reading. Please take the time to read and share this with your child. Please make sure your child's dream book is returned the following Monday to school.

Phonics- Essential Letters and Sounds- Phonics is taught daily to the class. We follow a programme called Essential Letters and Sounds. We teach the letters and sounds in a particular order. More information regarding these sessions, has been shared during the parent phonic meeting on zoom. If you were not able to make this session, it has been recorded and posted on class dojo. It is important that you watch the video if you did not attend, so you understand what is expected of children and how best to support them at home. For parents to support children at home, we will send a phonics writing book home each Friday. This will show you what sounds children have been taught in class during the week. Children are expected to practise writing each sound 5-10 times, using the rhymes provided and correct letter formation as well as trying to stay on the line. We know this seems like very high expectations; we are not expecting to see this right away, however, please do try and complete this where possible. Phonics homework needs to be returned by the following Wednesday. We also provide a sound phonic fan, which you will find in your child's reading pouch. Please look after these as it takes a lot of time to produce them for every child. Please do spend a couple of minutes across the week using the phonic fans to revise sounds taught.

Funky Fingers- we have used dough gym and funky fingers as an early intervention system for the children. Dough gym involves manipulating a ball of play dough in different ways to music and over time this helps to develop the children's fine motor skills. Funky fingers involves completing very small activities such as placing hooped cereal onto sticks against a timer, or twisting chunky nuts and bolts. This then develops their fine motor control and strengthens muscles in their fingers. These types of activities are always available during 'Discovery Time' (choosing time) and are sometimes completed as a whole class. These activities are full of fun and the children don't realise that the purpose is to help strengthen their fingers to allow them to write with good posture and pencil control.

PE- Taught twice a week and is always on a Tuesday and Thursday. Earrings need to be removed before school as adults are not permitted to remove or tape them. Children **MUST** come to school on these days in their PE uniform, otherwise they will not be allowed to participate in the lesson.

Weekly newsletter- We will send home a weekly newsletter detailing what adventures we have been up to that week. The newsletter will contain photographs and information about our learning. Our class email addresses can be found at the top of each newsletter if you should need to contact us.

Class Take Home Bag- Each week (after half term) one child in the class will come home with a class take home bag. This will have the class teddy, a game, a story, some hot chocolate and a toothbrush for the class teddy (to encourage oral health discussion). Children will have the class take home bag for the week. We simply ask that you look after the class bag and upload photos of your adventures with the class teddy for your child to show to the rest of the class the following week.

Wellies- We will be using our wellies all the time. Please ensure that your child has wellies at school, which are named. When your child's feet grow, and they get new shoes please ensure that they have new wellies as well.

Learning can be messy- We try our best to ensure that the children have an enjoyable and productive day and will often expose them to new opportunities, which can sometimes be a little messy. We use aprons to prevent children from getting too dirty but there will be times when your little one comes home with a range of marks on their clothes. This means their day has been productive! Please ensure your child has spare clothes at school. If your class teacher sends wet clothes home, please wash and send them back to school.

Illness/absence/drop off and pick up- Please ensure you ring the school office if your child is unwell and cannot attend school. If your child has had a stomach bug with sickness or diarrhoea, we ask that you keep your child at home for 48hrs from the last time they are sick or have had a loose bowel movements, to ensure it is not passed onto other children and staff. Please also let us know of any incidents of nits/worms, so we can be aware and change resources where necessary. If you can also let us know if someone else is picking your child up from school, it will make it easy to dismiss the children at the end of the day. We will not release your child to someone that you have not told us about beforehand.

Drink Bottles- Your child MUST have a drink bottle, which is brought to school every day. Please ensure this is plastic not metal. Squash is **not allowed** in their class water bottles - water only please. Water bottles will be sent home every day with your child.

Snack- We will be having rolling snack. This is a chance for children to experience independence to decide when they want snack, pouring their own milk/water, working towards making their own snacks by cutting fruit and vegetables and being able to use a toaster. We will be identifying key skills that we want children to learn across the year, to prepare and cook a range of food and introduce them to experience foods they may not have tied before.

Class Dojo: We will be using class dojo most days to communicate with you about what we have been getting up to and posting reminders for parents. Please ensure that you are checking class dojo daily to ensure that you do not miss communication from class teachers. This is also a platform that you can use to upload pictures to teachers of any fun exciting adventures or learning that you get up to at home.

Communication: Please note that teachers cannot have long conversations on the gate in the morning or at release time. Teacher's priority is getting all children into the classroom and settled and releasing children safely to their adult in the afternoon. If you have something in the morning/afternoon that you need to speak to the class teacher about, please either email, pass the message through the office or ask the office for the class teacher to phone you. If teachers have any concerns about anything we will contact you. Please do not send teachers private messages through the messaging function on class dojo, as this is not monitored. Please note that no abusive or aggressive behaviour will be tolerated to any staff. We are partners in your child's education, there are no problems only solutions.

School Dinners: Everyday children are given the choice of what school dinner **they** would like to choose. The children have a choice of 4 colours..

Yellow-meat option,

Blue- vegetarian,

Red-Jacket potato

Green- Sandwich

Children who choose a hot dinner are given the choice, when they collect their dinner of, side vegetables and a pudding. This is a child's choice- not a teacher choice- of what side and pudding **they** would like. This means that often children's dinners may look different as it does depend on what each individual child chooses.

Children with a hot dinner are given water when they are sat down with their dinner. Children who choose a green option have a sandwich and sides like a packed lunch. This may include veggie sticks of carrot and cucumber, a piece of fruit, a cold pudding (children are not given the choice of pudding if they choose green)

and a juice box drink. Children are given plenty of time to eat and EYFS staff are with them in the dinner hall for the first 15 minutes and then midday staff take over.

If children are not eating, midday staff will feedback to teachers and teachers will feedback to parents. If your child is a fussy eater, please look at the menu before bringing your child into school and discuss what colour they would like. Teachers are not responsible for choosing children's dinners.

As part of the EYFS curriculum, and to get them ready for the rest of the school life, we encourage children to use their independence and choose their own. Children experience the full menu and it is sometimes they choose something and they don't like it, this is a learning opportunity. They have tried something new; they may not like it and this is okay and they may not choose it again. If your child is always having the same dinner and you would like them to try something else then it is parental guidance that supports this by having conversations with your child at home.

If you still have concerns regarding your child's dinner choices please email the class Teacher.

We know this is a lot of information, but hopefully this clearly sets out how EYFS works and what is expected across the year. Rather than sending information in little bits you can digest this over time and refer back to it if you need.

If you have any questions, please do email class teachers and we will aim to respond with 48hrs.

Kind regards

EYFS Team