



Ashley Junior School

Aspiration • Resilience • Respect • Responsibility

03 September 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to the new school year in Robins and an especially big welcome to the three new members of Robin class. I hope you have all had a lovely relaxing summer and that everyone is refreshed and ready for an exciting term. It always takes a little while to settle into the school routines after a lovely long holiday but I am sure we will all soon be raring to go!

Our Topic is 'All Creatures Great and Small'. We will be learning about different animals that are both wild and domesticated and also those animals that work for us, such as guide dogs and police horses. Our literacy learning will use the book 'Meerkat Mail' as a starting point and we will focus on developing writing skills including composition, spelling and handwriting. We will also complete some non-fiction writing and poetry. Our maths for this term will largely focus on number and the four rules but we will include some measure and shape work.

We will enjoy art sessions looking at the work of Picasso and we will try out our own versions. We will learn some modelling techniques using clay. We will focus on developing the children's PHSE skills, particularly their social skills, making friends and settling in to the new school year. We will work on them setting themselves targets and having a good attitude to learning – developing the resilience they need to achieve and learn and we will think about the Ashley Learning Powers and how they help us.

The Science that we will be covering in Robins is based around classifying animals, understanding growth and life cycles in humans and animals, why humans and animals need bones and muscles and how the different environments affect the creatures that live there. The children will continue do Computing and Music with their mainstream buddies on different days according to their year group (with the usual support from a Robin team member).

For the first part of the term the children will have PE on a Thursday and the children should come dressed for PE on that day. Later in the term, the children may begin to join their mainstream buddies and so their PE day might change. I will keep you updated!

Generally speaking, Robins do Literacy activities, including some Lexia, in the morning followed by a Story Time and break/snack time. Please remember that healthy snacks such as fruit and vegetables are the only snack we allow. After break there are maths activities. After lunch the children will focus on the other curriculum areas such as PHSE, Science and Art.

After the first week or so the children will be allocated a reading book. (We will be completing our usual reassessments at the start of the term). The children will then all bring their book bag home each day and, as always, it is important that this is returned **every day**. In the book bag you will find a reading book and a reading record where you can record your reading with your child. Please read as often as you can with your child. It is important to read and re-read texts until the vocabulary is really familiar. It is also important to talk about the story and the characters – what they are doing and how they might be feeling. As well as reading regularly it is expected that the children will access the online learning platforms and spend at least 1 hour per week doing learning across the different platforms – Doodle Spell, Doodle English, Doodle Maths and Lexia. Just 10-15 minutes a day will make a significant difference to progress. Remember, this work must be independent and the children should be able to access these platforms readily. If there are any problems do get in touch and I will be happy to help.

We have not been using the home/school communication books any more as parents seem to have preferred contact by email. I will send regular emails to let you know if there is anything I need to communicate and I am always happy to hear from you if there is anything you think it would be helpful to know. In addition, I am always happy to take a call from you if needed. If you would prefer to use a home/school book just let me know.

Thank you for your ongoing support. The start of the new year is always a bit tricky for some with lots of changes and new experiences to manage but I know the children will soon be settled and focussed on their learning.

Best Wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mrs Harling', followed by a short horizontal line.

Mrs Harling

Robin Class Teacher (Resourced Provision)