

Kittens' Class

Autumn Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,
Welcome to the Kittens' Class!

We hope you have all had a lovely break over the summer and have been able to enjoy some of the lovely weather!

At Kedington Primary Academy, we consider communication to be key to a strong effective partnership, therefore if there is anything you would like to discuss, please speak to us after school, make an appointment for a more convenient time, write a note in the communication log or send us a message using Class Dojo.

We look forward to working with you!
Ms Kirby, Mrs Riley and Mrs Bradnam

Mark making and writing

During the first term in the Kittens' Class, your child will be encouraged to firstly develop the pivotal range in their shoulder, increase the fluidity of their elbow and wrist movements and strengthen the dexterity in their fingers, allowing them a successful and comfortable pencil grip for writing. The next step will be using a name card to practice forming the letters in their name. Following on from this there will be opportunities using an alphabet mat to begin to form the sounds in accordance with the phonics programme being followed. If your child is ready to write and is keen to form lower case letters, we can offer an alphabet mat for home use if this is something you think would be useful. As previously mentioned, every child is different and it is important we allow children to develop learning skills before being pressured to achieve in areas such as writing, therefore we will monitor your child closely and when they are ready, we will support them accordingly in this area.

Numeracy

Numeracy can be applied everywhere! We plan from your child's interests and will therefore tie in appropriate areas of numeracy. The areas of priority this half term include counting to 10 and beyond and recognising these numbers, singing number songs and rhymes; recording numbers to 5 accurately and using numbers for a purpose. During the first few weeks we are exploring 'ourselves' and learning about each other, therefore, pictograms of pets, siblings and favourite toys will also be incorporated.

Show and Tell

Show and Tell sessions have numerous benefits for young children. These early language experiences support the building of effective communication and listening skills that are essential at this age. It also encourages emotional development, as he or she shares their interests, home lives, and joys and challenges with their peers. In addition, this socially rewarding experience helps to solidify important home-school connections, particularly when Show and Tell is aligned with the curriculum. We would like to hold show and tell sessions on a Monday and Tuesday afternoon. We will send out a message specifying the 'show and tell' day for your child within the next week.

Synthetic Phonics

Over the next few weeks a daily phonics session will take place each morning in the Kittens' class. This will consist of learning the sounds of the letters in the alphabet eventually enabling your child to sound out words and blend them together to read. These sessions are very 'hands on' and active following a play based ethos. As these sessions progress and we gain a better understanding of your child's ability, we will issue a school reading book.

I would just like to take this opportunity to reassure you that all children learn in different ways and at different speeds, therefore not every child will get a reading book at the same time or be given the same type of reading book. We will adjust this accordingly as your child's learning progresses.

Reading with your child and communicating with us

Until your child is issued with a reading book, we would love to hear any progress with rhyming and alliteration, any favourite stories shared or abilities to retell familiar stories using appropriate language. I'm sure you do this without even knowing it. For example, sharing rhyming story books with your child is a positive way of supporting their awareness. We would love to hear about this using the communication logs sent home. Maybe your child would like to draw a picture of their favourite part of the story or have a go at writing their favourite rhyming words etc. In addition to communication logs, you can also communicate with us using ClassDojo online.

PE

PE will take place on a **Tuesday and a Wednesday** starting on 10th September. We are aware that your child may be fully capable of changing independently and if this is the case, fantastic! However as previously mentioned, every child develops at a different rate and this will be taken into account when preparing for P.E. We want nothing more than for your child to feel happy, confident and capable when experiencing new things at school.

Uniform

Please make sure **all** items of clothing, including PE Kit, wellies, and book bags are fully named.

Water Bottles

We have provided your first named water bottle.

Your child will be encouraged to fill this up and drink regularly throughout the school day.