

Stanbridge Lower School



Class Letter - Pre-School

Autumn Term 2023

Welcome

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome our new children and families, alongside some of our children from last term. The children have settled very well into Pre-School over the last week and are starting to establish routines. It has been lovely to watch them enjoy the provision and begin to form new friendships.

Staffing update

My name is Mrs Biggs and I am the Pre-school leader. As many of you may know, Mrs Thackray our Pre-School assistant left us at the end of last term to further her career at another school in Aylesbury. While we are waiting to appoint another assistant, we have Mrs Patterson and Miss Saunders working with us; both of these staff members are very well known to the school and have a background in Early Years.

Nature Topics

Our topics for this term are: Sunflowers, Blackberries, Apples & Pears, Acorns & Conkers, Bread, Spiders, Autumn Trees, Sleeping, Dens, Pinecones, Christmas Trees and Healthy Smiles. The children will enjoy an array of different activities within these themes, such as visits to the school field and Forest School area, cooking, arts, crafts and other group activities promoting play based learning.

Phonics

Stanbridge uses a recognised scheme called Little Wandle to teach phonics. In Pre-School, children are exposed to a variety of age appropriate phonic activities daily; this involves lots of nursery rhymes and playing with sounds. Over the year, we cover phases 1 and 2 through play based learning activities. Children will have the opportunity to learn the following phonemes: s,a,t,p,i,n,m,d,g,o,c,e,u,r,h,b,f,l,j,v,w,x,y,z and we shall also be covering the digraphs qu,ch,sh,th,ng,nk.

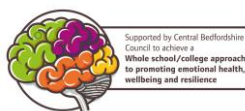
Whilst it is not compulsory, if you wish to continue learning these phonic sounds with your child at home, here is a link to the Little Wandle web site for the correct phoneme pronunciations and letter formation. This will also show you the correct sequence in which we shall be teaching the phase two phonics to your children. <https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents/>

Reading

We will be reading the following books from our reading spine weekly with the children, along with any other fiction or non-fiction books relating to our weekly topic.



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Our spine books are -

- Hairy Maclary from Donaldson's Dairy
- Hairy Maclary and Zachary Quack
- Hug
- You Choose
- The Very Hungry Caterpillar
- We're going on a Bear hunt
- Come on, Daisy
- Shout, Daisy, Shout

Maths

All maths in preschool is taught through play based learning and we work with numbers from 1-5. The children will be counting daily and will be learning lots of mathematical language such as heavy, light, tall, short, full, empty etc.

Final note

Please could all children have a named water bottle filled with water each day and a bag containing spare clothes in case of an accident or water spillages etc.

On hotter days, please ensure you apply sun cream to your child and send them with a sun hat; on colder/wetter days, please ensure you send them with a coat and welly boots (boots can be left in school in a carrier bag, so we are always ready to splash in puddles when they appear!)

If you have any queries, you are welcome to catch me at the start or end of the session, send an email or request a phone call back. The Pre School staff look forward to working with you to ensure the best opportunities for your child.

Kind regards,

Mrs Biggs
Pre-School leader.



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