



## Diamond Class

### Autumn Term Newsletter

Welcome to the new school year in Diamond Class and I hope you all had a wonderful summer break. It may be very early in the term but I thought I should tell you already how proud you should be of your children! Our first day and Diamond Class have already shown how much they are going to "sparkle". Old friends were reunited and my "experts" did a really good job of setting an example, showing their new friends some of the routines of the classroom. There has been some very good listening, very good sharing, very good stopping and after the first few minutes not a tear in sight! Even from the parents so well done to you too!



The Early Years classroom is the first experience of school your children will have. It is essential that they take ownership of their classroom and over the next few weeks we will be busy making it a bright and welcoming environment in which they can most successfully play and learn.



The basis of learning in Early Years is that children learn through play. In this way your child may come home and say that they have been playing, they may come home and share what they have learned or they may come home and say nothing at all! Therefore to give you a few clues our theme for the first part of this term is "Homes". We will be looking at the types of homes we live in and comparing to them to houses in different parts of the world. We will consider the similarities and differences of our homes and those around the world. Our classroom will gradually fill with drawings, paintings, collages of our homes and those of others, and models of different types of houses.



In the second part of the term we will be looking at "Festivals of Light". We will be talking about why we celebrate Bonfire night, the significance of the Guy, the fire and fireworks. We will also be learning about Diwali, the Festival of Light and then of course Christmas will be upon us and we will focus on the traditional Christmas story. Prepare to hear them singing their new songs all around the house as they prepare to wow you at the Christmas performance.



A few reminders or requests about some of the daily routines in Diamond Class:

- A drink of milk or water, and fruit is provided in each session
- Book bags are necessary as they are used to send home reading books, pictures and correspondence. At the start of a new year many permission slips, medical forms and essential forms for school starters are sent home to be completed and returned via book bags. Please ensure these are returned as promptly as possible. Any changes of address or contact numbers throughout the year should be informed immediately to the school office. Also if you are separated parents and you wish to have reports sent to your home address please let us know at the office where you can also collect a copy of the policy if necessary.
- The doors to the classroom are open from 8.45 a.m. for the morning session. Reception children will be encouraged to enter with less support as their independence increases. At the end of the school day (3.20 p.m.) the children will be led to the playground and released from the line. They are not released until I can see you so feel free to wave frantically or do a little dance!
- Please make sure **all** items are named!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
- **Communication.** There is a communication board on the way into the classroom; initially this will introduce you to the members of the Diamond Team. Later in the term it will outline our topic, show what we are learning in literacy and mathematics and share some pictures of the children at play. It also displays the latest school and class newsletters which can also be located on the website, and keep an eye on updates by following Twitter @ali\_winchelsea
- A breakfast club is available at school and a nursery lunch club or extended provision is available if requested in advance. Please ask for details.
- PE kits will be required when the children are settled. A letter will come out telling you when changing for PE will start.



Finally a few words about the Diamond Class team. I am the Early Years Lead teacher, Miss Stewart, and if you need to speak to me about anything then please do not hesitate to contact me by phone or come and see me. The end of the day is usually best, once the children have been released to their parents. There are occasions where I have meetings or run clubs but I will always do my best to see you as soon as possible. Mrs Doran is a further teacher on the team, and in addition we are supported by Mrs Riley, Miss Smith and Mrs Hilton who are central to life in Diamond Class as teaching assistants encouraging and guiding your children through learning and play. Mrs Lewis and Molly are also gaining experience within the classroom as part of teaching assistant experience or sixth form placement. Mrs Doran and Mrs Harrison also run the lunch time club for Nursery children, the details of this were shared during home visits and welcome morning but if you have any questions or wish to book any sessions then please let me know. We also welcome teacher Mrs Byatt to our class one session a week.

I hope that this information has been useful to you. I already have a great feeling about the term ahead, and have no doubt that our "Diamond Gems" are all set to dazzle and make us proud!

Alison Stewart