



## Diamond Class Spring Term Newsletter

Welcome to 2018 in Diamond Class. I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas break and saw the New Year in in style. It's lovely to see all the children back, full of excitement and refreshed after their Christmas break, even though it went so quickly! They have made a wonderful start to the new term and with the initial discussions of Christmas, presents and parties over, are now settling in well to a new stage of their learning journey.



We were extremely proud of the children at the end of term, there was no doubt in my mind that they would put on a great "It's a Nativity" performance, confidence had grown so much as the term progressed and we really hope you all enjoyed it. We were also extremely proud of the way in which the children behave on morning visits to the Ruskington Library, the afternoon visit to Chestnuts Home to sing their Christmas songs, performing with the choir or enjoying Tattershall Farm Park. You are true little gems Diamond, a class to be proud of!

We are now busy settling into the new term, recapping rules and routines of the classroom, and considering some of the events ahead that we have to look forward to. We have also allocated jobs and monitors for the older children and they are thoroughly enjoying their new responsibilities. We have also been busy keeping our eyes on the workmen!!!! Our playground will be fantastic when it's finished!!! A greater undercover space, new surfacing, an additional outdoor area, ..... No, not telling you anymore, it will spoil the surprise!!!! Come and join us for a breakfast morning when it's all finished. We can't wait!!!!



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! Each day will provide a mixture of adult led, adult initiated or child initiated activities. This means children will spend some time working as a whole class, some time in small groups with or without the support of an adult, and some time at activities of their own choosing. The prime areas upon which we focus are communication and language, physical development and personal, social and emotional development. In addition are the specific areas of literacy, mathematics, expressive arts and design and understanding the world. Keep up to date with what is going on in the classroom by logging into tapestry, and don't forget to share with us your adventures from home.

Our theme for the first part of this term is "Transport and Travel". We will be looking at the places we visit and how we get there, considering the best ways to travel for the length of the journey and whether we are travelling over land or sea. Our role play area is currently turning into a double decker bus, there will be other vehicles as the term progresses, in addition to travel agents, garage mechanics and we have even discussed a space rocket for travelling to the moon.



In the second part of the term we will be looking at "Life in Egypt". I feel some pyramid building coming on and maybe I should start collecting bandages now! (Any spares you have would be gratefully received)



PLANNED VISIT- this term when the weather allows (or at least becomes a little more reliable) we intend to make use of our National Trust Membership (kindly provided by FOWs and their hard work fundraising for your children) and make a visit to Belton House. Parents will be invited to join us if they wish so keep your eye out for more information later in the term ☺

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

- Book bags should be in school every day as they are used to send home reading books, pictures and correspondence. I will continue to change books on request and strive to do this daily; some of our bookworms are keeping me very busy! Even if you haven't read the book please make sure it is in the book bag as we also read with children individually or in groups at school. Encouraging your child with their reading and letter sound development is a great help and I thank you for your continued support.
- The doors to the classroom are open from 8.45 a.m. for the morning session. Reception children should now be encouraged to enter without support if possible, and Nursery to be independent where possible. (We know they can do it as they are very independent during the day ☺) At the end of the school day (3.20 p.m.) please ensure that children remain in your care, not on the field or near the school building where lessons continue. The gravel area is also out of bounds.
- **Indoor PE kits are now required.** (Blue shorts, Winchelsea/ white t- shirt, pumps-classroom ones are fine). Our PE days this half term are Monday afternoons and Wednesday mornings, if your little ladies sometimes wear trousers to school these are easier to manage independently than tights, as are socks and skirts, though of course help is available! If they are in tights please include a pair of socks in their PE kit to wear with pumps. PLEASE ensure all items are named, those they are removing AND putting back on, this makes it easier to sort out when they all play "swap my clothes". ☺ Last term all PE kits and spare clothes bags were sent home, along with pumps, for you to check sizing etc. Some have not returned. If you need to check pegs feel free to pop in at drop off time to check ☺
- PLEASE ENSURE ALL ITEMS ARE NAMED SO THAT IF MISPLACED THEY CAN BE RETURNED, ESPECIALLY JUMPERS AND CARDIGANS WHICH ARE REMOVED MOST OFTEN, after a term many written on labels have faded beyond recognition and it can get tricky for the children (and us) to read them.

Please remember that 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 clubs but I will always do my best to see you as soon as possible. Nursery parents obviously catch me at the start or end of sessions if needed.

I hope that this information has been useful to you. The children have made a fantastic start to the New Year, new term and new topic and I can't wait to see their characters and skills develop. Watch these Diamonds sparkle!!!

