



Diamond Class

Autumn Term Newsletter

Welcome to the new school year in Diamond Class, it is wonderful to finally be able to meet these children I have been hearing about!! And of course their parents! Thank you so much for all your support up to this point. These are times your children should be learning about in History lessons not living through, but first impressions are they are taking things all in their stride. I am going to try and follow their excellent examples 😊

After only one day the children are off to a flying start and are showing themselves to be a new year of "sparkly gems". I am sure that they will soon settle in and become enthusiastic learners, good listeners and be keen to experience new things. After some tying in knots they are improving the skill of sitting still (some with legs crossed) and after a lovely story and sharing time I have told them today how well they are doing. Well done Diamond!! Week one at school and you are already making your teacher proud (ok I know it's only been two days but credit where credit's due!) 😊

Old friends have been reunited and the "experts" are doing a really good job of setting an example to new friends, helping them with some of the routines of the classroom and making them feel at home.

Well done to you too! First day of school or a new year can be just as daunting to parents as it is to the children. You have been great at encouraging the children straight in, and that certainly has an effect on them. It all helps us to be doing the best job we can to be keeping our "bubble" safe. (Have no fear I would always call you if an unhappy sparkly didn't settle but it is usually a matter of minutes).



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. It's a big job as we start with a completely blank canvas. Time to get our little artists busy! 😊

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 it may help if I give you a few clues! As a way of getting to know each other and the routines of the classroom we will be starting the term with "People- Our Body". We will be naming parts of the body and exploring the senses, considering how to look after ourselves and stay healthy, and how we grow. We will be observing our friends, making comparisons, talking about differences, and how we are all special. We will link our topic to numeracy work, using fingers and toes for counting, foot prints and hand spans for measuring, and we will talk about the times of the day that we do certain things to stay healthy such as getting up, brushing our teeth, eating our meals and going to sleep. In the current circumstances we will also use our talk of the body and routines to think about school today and the extra measures in place to keep us safe from germs and bugs.



After the initial settling in period the activities that follow will be... well, I'm not sure yet! Obviously the Christmas Story will play a part at the end of term, but other areas of learning will be inspired by the children's own interests, questioning and enquiry. Who knows where our adventures may take us, but I suspect it's going to be fun ☺



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. Please ensure every child has a named water bottle that can be left in the classroom and accessed during the course of their session. (This is in addition to their lunch time drink and should contain water only ☺)
- Book bags are necessary as they are used to send home reading books, pictures and correspondence. Reading books will be sent home with an explanatory letter, feel free to ask if uncertain.
- At the end of the school day 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!
- At the end of the day please ensure that **all children** stay away from the trim trail equipment. This is for school use only and currently allocated to "bubbles".
- Please make sure **all** items are named! Many thanks!!!!!!
- Reception children are now all allocated a free hot school meal. If you do not wish your child to have a hot meal you **MUST OPT OUT** on the website. Any questions please ask. If you have not opted out your child will be given their hot school meal. If there are any concerns regarding your child's eating or enjoyment of the food I will pass these on. In the first few weeks it can be a trial and error and we work closely together at this time. Please check menus and discuss with your child their thoughts of what they ate that day. We pride ourselves on being a Healthy School so if you are choosing to send in a lunch no chocolate bars or fizzy drinks please.
- PE lessons will take place but kits will not be required at this time. We will start with dance and movement and introduce changing when the children are settled and used to daily procedures.



Finally a few words about the Diamond Class team. I am the Early Years Lead teacher and Deputy Head Miss Stewart, Mrs Doran is a further teacher on the team. If you need to speak to us about anything then please do not hesitate to contact us by phone or email. As stated in the risk assessment that you received via email (also available on the school website) opportunity to talk on the playground at the start and end of day is extremely limited as parents are asked to enter and leave swiftly but we are still here and happy to help! In addition we are superbly supported by Mrs Hilton, Mrs Wright, Mrs Lewis and Mrs Harrison. These are highly qualified teaching assistants encouraging and guiding your children through learning and play.

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! Please follow me on Twitter at @ali_winchelsea for class news and updates.

Alison Stewart ☺☺☺☺