

# Primrose Hill Primary School

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Monday 7th March

Dear Parents & Carers,

We wish you all a very warm welcome back to school! I'm sure it will be another busy and exciting half term for all of our Froglets. We have lots of fabulous learning planned for this half term (below is an overview but overleaf you will find more details).

## Curriculum

We will be adapting the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum continually this half term and beyond to meet the needs of our children - whilst ensuring it remains broad and balanced. We want the children to be enthusiastic, curious learners who love coming to school.

This half term we will be focusing on the story;

**'Dear Zoo' by Rod Campbell**

We will be learning about different animals and their habitats. We will also be exploring what a zoo is and the role of a zoo keeper. We will even be making our very own lift the flap books!

In maths, we will be making repeating patterns, looking at capacity and size, as well as exploring 2D shapes. We will also be exploring and understanding numbers and looking at them in different ways.

We will continue with phase 1 phonics (rhyme, alliteration and hearing the sounds in words).

Other exciting festivals and celebrations happening this half term include World Book Day on Thursday 3rd March, Red Nose Day on Friday 18th March, Ramadan, Easter and Pesach (Passover).

Exciting news! We are in the process of organising a trip to the Zoo. We will let you know when the date is finalised. We will spend the day there as we will have a wonderful workshop called 'There's a Lion in my Garden'. We would love some volunteers to come with us but it will be on a first come, first served basis. There will be a letter to follow with more information.

## Parental Engagement

As restrictions are easing in wider society, we anticipate that we will soon be able to invite parents and families into the building to restart some of our regular events from before the pandemic, including our parent workshops and opportunities to see your child's work and classroom. We will be in touch soon with further details about these opportunities in the next few weeks.

## Mystery Reader

We are so excited to be able to start back up our **Friday Mystery Reader**. A mystery reader can be mums, dads, grandparents and other special friends. We keep their identity a secret to build anticipation and excitement. The class teachers will give the children clues as they arrive to build the excitement! It is a wonderful opportunity for you to come into the class and read the class a story of your choice. If you are interested, please let Lia or Emma know.

*Head Teacher: Phil Allman*

## Reading

We will be continuing with our weekly class library day every **Tuesday**. The children have thoroughly enjoyed choosing and changing their books each week. **Please make sure your child has a Primrose Hill book bag**. These can be purchased on the **schoolmoney website**. Please bring your book bag to school **every Tuesday**, where your child will choose a new book to take home for the week. As reading is a priority for all children, the school has invested in **Reading Eggs**, an online reading programme. Hopefully you have all managed to log in and access it now. Please let us know if you have any questions.



## Punctuality & Attendance

It continues to be really important that children arrive and are collected promptly.

**START OF THE DAY** - A reminder that we have returned to the *Soft Start* system at the beginning of the school day. All children will be welcomed through the main gate between **8:45 - 9:00am** each morning. After 9:00am the gate will be closed and any latecomers will need to come through the main school office. **Afternoon children start at 12:25pm**. Please wait outside the main office where a member of the team will come and collect your child.

**END OF THE DAY** - Children will be in the playground when the gates open at **3:25pm**. There will be no need to queue down Princess Road but please be mindful of the numbers of people entering the school site at the end of the day and to maintain social distancing as much as possible. Once you have collected your child please step away from the door to allow other parents to collect their child safely.

**Morning children finish at 11:45am**. Please wait outside the main office, a member of the team will bring your child to you.

Attendance is compulsory for all children, but we understand that some absences may occur. Regular contact and communication to our office about illness and medical appointments is crucial.

Despite the guidance on Covid 19 changing over the next few weeks we have been provided with DfE guidance up to the point tests cannot be accessed freely. This is as follows:

**If children show any symptoms whilst they are in school we will still be sending them home.**

- Anyone with symptoms should take a PCR test, stay at home and follow government guidance if positive
- People who have tested positive will continue to be advised to stay at home for five full days and then receive two negative test results on consecutive days before returning to their workplace or setting
- Anyone with one or more symptoms of coronavirus - a high temperature, a new continuous cough; or a loss or change in sense of smell or taste - should self-isolate and book a test or call 119

This will be subject to change as the term goes on and Phil will update you over the coming weeks about any adaptations to this.

Office: **0207 772 8500** or email [admin@primrosehill.camden.sch.uk](mailto:admin@primrosehill.camden.sch.uk)

## Water and fruit

We provide fruit for the children and each child will need to bring their own **named bottle of water** each day. We will be able to refill them when needed and are encouraging drinking water every hour. If you

*Head Teacher: Phil Allman*

would like to donate a couple of extra pieces of fruit a week to the classroom that would be gratefully received.

### Healthy Eating and Malleable Play

Cooking with children offers a wide variety of learning experiences, for example Numeracy, Communication and Language, Understanding the World and Physical Development can all be taught in one cooking session. To help support this, we ask for a **voluntary contribution of 50p a week**, where we will be able to buy the ingredients and resources needed. You can give your donation to a member of the team, or if you prefer, this adds up to **£7.50 over the term** where you can make your contribution in one go rather than finding coins each week. We really appreciate your support, thank you!

### Dressing for school

We encourage you to dress your child in clothes that are practical for the classroom and ensure your child's **clothing is named**. We may be in spring but the weather as we have seen has been variable!, Please make sure that your child comes to school with a long sleeved coat, preferably with a hood or hat, suitable for every kind of weather.



We encourage you to dress your child in clothes that are practical for an Early Years setting, bearing in mind they may get muddy, wet or painty. Also, wearing shoes with Velcro fastenings until they are able to tie their own shoe laces is very helpful.

As part of our safety precautions in school we are keeping the windows and doors open in our classroom to ensure the room is ventilated. Please make sure your child comes in with layers to wear, including a warm jumper.

### Spare clothes

Every child needs to have a spare, named change of clothes to be left in school, hanging on your child's peg. Children may get wet or dirty from one of the exciting learning experiences we enjoy in EYFS! Where possible please use a soft fabric/plastic bag due to limited space on their peg.



### Toys at school

Please remind your child that we discourage them from bringing in their own toys to school. They can easily be lost or broken and this causes much upset, and at present it is not hygienic to bring in additional objects from home.

### Tapestry

This is an online journal to help record your child's time at school. We send pictures and videos to you at the end of every half term. We also use this as a way of communicating with you. You can also post us videos and photos of the exciting things your child does at home.



### Communication

For further information, please make sure you regularly check the school website [www.primrosehill.sch.uk](http://www.primrosehill.sch.uk)

If you would like to speak to the teacher, you can email the school admin and they will be in touch directly.



*Head Teacher: Phil Allman*



### And finally...

A reminder that our aim is for your child to become a confident, motivated and independent learner. Remind them to 'have a go' at things they find difficult. Try to refrain from doing things for them and tell them 'you can do it'. Remember that mistakes are marvelous and are the way we learn how to do things. Praise all of your child's successes and encourage them to make decisions and choices about the experiences and learning they do outside of school.

If you have ANY questions or want to find out more, please speak to any of the team.

Many thanks,

Lia, Emma and the Team

#### Communication and Language

Talk about journeys and adventures you have been on. This may be your journey to school, to visit a family member or friend or maybe to go on holiday. How did you travel? What did you see on the way?

Talk about the change in the season and what this looks like. Think about the colours in the sky etc... Spring is now upon us - can they see the things starting to grow? .

#### Personal, Social & Emotional Development

Practise sharing toys with your family.

Enjoy telling stories about your day over dinner or breakfast.

Share the best and worst parts of your day and why. Its good to talk!

#### Mathematics

Have fun playing various maths games and practising to count forwards and backwards.

Help your grown-ups at the supermarket counting out and weighing up fruit and veg into your shopping basket. Then have a go at paying for some of these items.

Have fun exploring capacity using water to fill up different sized containers and have a go at estimating how many spoonfuls/cupfuls of water it will take to fill your containers, half way, to the top, etc...

#### Literacy

Help to write a card to a friend or family member and have a go at posting it!

Can you play waiter/waitress game at home. Have a go at taking orders and writing these down on your special notepad.

Help to write out your weekly shopping list.

Make up your own story and tell a grown up for them to write it down.

#### Understanding of the World

Go on an adventure to the woods/park/forest and collect different objects to create a collage or a nature crown?

Can you help at home with cooking and making a special meal for your family.

Find out some fun facts about your favourite animal? Where does it live? What does it like to eat?

*Here are the seven areas of learning and development in the Early Years Foundation Stage. In each of the boxes, you will find some useful ideas on home learning!*

*Our Focus this half term is the story of "Dear Zoo" by Rod Campbell.*

#### Physical Development

Practise taking on and off your coat independently.

Fine motor activities like playdough and LEGO building help strengthen muscles for writing

Practise running, jumping, dancing, hopping, skipping and climbing when you are walking to school or at the park

#### Expressive arts and Design

Make a Spring collage of the things you found on a trip to the park.

Have a go at putting on a show for your family. Can you sing, dance, act or tell a joke?

Make props for your show.

Use some recycled materials to make some percussion instruments to add sound to your show.

