

Primrose Hill Primary School

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Tuesday 20th September

Dear Parents & Carers,

We are delighted to welcome you and your child to Reception and to begin a successful year of learning. This half term we are focusing on supporting you and your child to settle into the setting and to start their journey with us so that it is a positive and happy experience. It is going to be an exciting year together!

The Ladybirds Team	
Teaching Team - Maria Felstead and Liam Hanley	
Early Years Practitioners - Fitore Veliu and Roxan Cuerdo	
Support Staff - Bujar Publica	
Higher Level Teaching Assistants - Heather, Isabel, Sandra & Maggie	
Other Key Staff:	PE - Jordan Music - Tom Italian - Stella

Meet the Teacher

For more information about the team and Reception we will be holding a Meet the Teacher meeting on **Thursday 29th September at 9:00am**. We look forward to seeing you there.

Punctuality & Attendance

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

START OF THE DAY - All children will be welcomed through the main gate between **8:45 - 9:00am** each morning. Please make your way down to the reception corridor and a member of the Reception team will welcome your child into the learning environment each morning. The transition to Reception begins your child's journey to independence, so the staff will be encouraging your children to take ownership of small everyday tasks, for example, hanging their coat up and self-registering themselves each day. **After 9:00am the gate will be closed** and any latecomers will need to come through the main school office.

END OF THE DAY - Exit Time from the Ladybirds classroom (please wait next to the fence to the outside area) is at **3:25pm**

Office: 0207 772 8500 or email admin@primrosehill.camden.sch.uk

Head Teacher: Harsha Patel

Curriculum

We will be adapting the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum continually this half term and beyond to meet the needs and interests of our children, whilst ensuring we provide a broad and balanced range of experiences. We will be focusing on the three Prime Areas: Communication and Language, Personal, Social and Emotional Development and Physical Development. As well as the four Specific Areas: Literacy, Mathematics, Understanding the World and Expressive Art and Design.

This half term we will be focusing on the story;

'Owl Babies' by Martin Waddell

We will be supporting the children to settle into their new environments and giving them time to get to know their new adults and peers.

Reception Baseline

You may be aware that over the next few weeks, each child will complete the new Reception baseline test that the government launched last year. It is around 20 minutes long and will be carried out by the Reception teachers during a relaxed and informal session. Please find attached an information leaflet and also a privacy notice regarding this process.

Reading

We want our children to develop a love of reading and stories from the very start of their schooling. We have a book corner in our classroom where the children will be able to select books and read during the day independently, in groups and with an adult. As reading is a priority for all children, the school has invested in **Reading Eggs** online reading programme. We will be sending out details about how to access this over the next few weeks. **Please make sure your child has a Primrose Hill book bag. These can be purchased on the schoolmoney website. Lia details of how to get on school money. You will receive information about how to access school money once your child starts school.** Please bring your book bag to school everyday, where your child will be able to choose a new book to take home, as well as to bring home their guided reading book to share with you.



PE and Music

On a Monday morning our children will have an exciting PE session with our sports specialist Jordan. As well as a Music session with our specialist Music teacher Tom. These sessions will not start immediately, only once the children are all settled. Please ensure your child is wearing suitable clothing for running outside on this day. Over the next few weeks, if you have ordered a PE kit, we will be handing these out to you and if not there is plenty of time to order one, **these can be purchased on the schoolmoney website.** Any questions about the PE kits please speak to the office. Please make sure your PE kit is named clearly.

Mystery Reader and Stay and Plays

In Ladybirds, we will be holding a stay and play session every Wednesday morning 8:45 until 9:15 am starting on Wednesday 28th September. This will be on a two week cycle; more details will follow shortly. This is an opportunity to explore the classroom, play, and read a story with your child.

Every Friday we have a 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 and in your home language. If you are

Head Teacher: Harsha Patel

interested, please let one of the team know. This will begin Friday 30th September. A sign-up sheet will be available in the corridor.

Liaison time

We know that communication with you is key in establishing a positive and safe learning environment. We will be around at the end of each day for a chat. Please don't hesitate to come and talk to one of us, we are here to support you and your child. If you are unable to come to school to talk to us, please contact the school office and ask to make an appointment to speak with us.



Dressing for Ladybirds

As the days begin to become cooler and wetter, please ensure your child comes to school every day in a long sleeved coat, preferably with a hood or hat. We use the outside area every day so children need to be able to wrap up warm. We encourage you to dress your child in clothes that are practical for an Early Years setting. For example, shoes with Velcro fastenings at school until they are able to tie their own shoe laces. **Please ensure your child's clothing is named.**



Spare clothes

Every child needs to have a **spare and named change of clothes** to be left in school, hanging on their peg. Children may get wet or dirty from one of the exciting learning experiences we enjoy in EYFS! Please can we ask for them to be in a soft fabric/plastic bag due to limited space on their peg.



Water and fruit

We provide fruit for the children, though each child will need their own **named bottle of water** each day. We will be able to refill them when needed. If you 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 (£7.50 a term)** where we will be able to buy the ingredients and resources needed. **This is payable through your SchoolMoney account. Under 'payments' you will find 'EYFS Class Donation Autumn 2022' for £7.50.** We would be really grateful if this could be paid by Friday 23rd September. We really appreciate your support, thank you!

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. This is especially important during this time when bringing additional objects from home can increase risk.

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. We will be sending a letter home in the next couple of weeks detailing how you can access your child's account. You will receive a separate email detailing how to log into your account.



Clubs

Our after school club is currently for children from Y1 upwards and we hope to open to Reception in the second half of the Autumn term. To get a place, you must book directly through the Provider here [PS3](#). You will hear more about activity-based clubs in a separate email.

Website

For further information, please make sure you regularly check the school website , Twitter and Instagram www.primrosehill.sch.uk

If you do not wish your child to be included in any school social media post, please let the office know.

We have also placed a link to a document called *What to Expect, When* for you to look at. It details how children develop from Birth to 5 and gives some really useful pointers about ways to support your child's development at home:

<https://foundationyears.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/What-to-expect-in-the-EYFS-complete-FINAL-16.09-compressed.pdf>

As part of Camden's Safeguarding policy, please remember to refrain from using your mobile phone when on the school grounds. We really appreciate your support with this for the safety of the children.



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.

We look forward to sharing the exciting year ahead with you all. If you have ANY questions or want to find out more, please speak to myself or any of the team.

Many thanks,

Maria, Liam and the Team

Head Teacher: Harsha Patel

Communication and Language

Talk about how you feel starting school.

Talk about the change in the season as we move from Summer to Autumn.

Can you retell the story of Owl Babies to your family

Numeracy

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

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 your autumnal objects for your collage

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

Find out some fun facts about space.

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!

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 "Owl Babies By Martin Waddell

Physical Development

Practise taking on and off their coat independently.

Practise climbing skills

Challenge yourselves to take some risks in the park/playground. And have fun kicking and throwing up the Autumn leaves

Expressive arts and Design

Make an autumnal collage of the things you found on a trip to the park

If there are gifts to wrap, have a go.

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.