

# Primrose Hill Primary School

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**Friday 6th January**

Dear Parents & Carers,

We wish you all a very happy New year and a warm welcome back to school for the first term of 2023! I'm sure it will be another busy and exciting term for all 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. We will be focusing on the three Prime Areas of the curriculum: Communication and Language, Personal, Social and Emotional Development and Physical Development.

**This half term we will be focusing on the stories:**

**'Whatever Next' by Jill Murphy & 'The Way back Home' by Oliver Jeffers**

**We will be finding out about space, the moon, exploration and rockets as well as learning and acting out the stories and making up our own space adventure stories. In maths, we will be focusing on having a strong understanding of numbers to 6 and reviewing the principles of counting. We will also explore Chinese New Year - what it is and how it is celebrated. We will continue with phase 1 phonics, playing games to help the children develop their phonemic awareness (hearing the sounds in words), with a focus on the sounds m,d,g,o,c,k,and e as well as developing the children's rhyming and oral blending skills.**

## **Reading**

We will be continuing our weekly class library day every **Tuesday**. 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, when your child will choose a new book to take home for the week (please make sure that their reading log is still in their book bag).



## **Punctuality & Attendance**

It continues to be really important that children arrive and are collected promptly. Attendance is statutory from age 5 so it is important to instill good habits as soon as children start, but we understand that some absences may occur. Regular contact and communication to our office about illness and medical appointments is crucial.

*Head Teacher: Harsha Patel*

**START OF THE DAY** - A reminder that we have returned to the 'soft start' at the beginning of the school day. All children will be welcomed through the main gate between **8:45 - 9:00 am** each morning. **After 9:00 am the gate will be closed** and any latecomers will need to come through the main school office.

**Afternoon children start at 12:25 pm.** Please wait outside the main office where a member of the team will come and collect your child.

**END OF THE DAY** - Please collect your children from the classroom door in the Froglets playground after the gates open at **3:25 pm.**

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

### **The Office:**

Please call the school office if you have any questions. If you do need to come *into* the office, you must use the gate entrance from the street and not come in through the school. Office: [0207 772 8500](tel:02077728500) or email [admin@primrosehill.camden.sch.uk](mailto:admin@primrosehill.camden.sch.uk)

### **Mystery Reader and Stay and Plays**

In Froglets, we will be continuing to hold a **stay and play session every Tuesday morning 8:45 until 9:15 am**, when you will have the opportunity to explore the classroom, play, and read a story with your child.

### **This half term we will start our Mystery Reader every Thursday at 3pm.**

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 interested, please let one of the team know.

### **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)** so can buy the ingredients and resources needed. **This is payable through your SchoolMoney account. Under 'payments' you will find 'EYFS Class Donation Spring 2023' for £7.50.** If you have not already made a contribution, we would be really **grateful if this could be paid by Friday 20th January.** We really appreciate your support, thank you!

### **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. If you would like to donate a couple of extra pieces of fruit a week to the classroom, that would be gratefully received.



### **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.** As we are now heading into

*Head Teacher: Harsha Patel*



Winter, please make sure that your child comes to school with 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.

### **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! Please regularly check and fill up your child's bag with clothes as and when your child needs them. 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.

### **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 videos and photos of the exciting things your child does at home for the nursery team to view.

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

**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.

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

Many thanks,

Emma and the Team

*Head Teacher: Harsha Patel*

### 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, no leaves on the trees etc.

### Mathematics

Have fun playing various maths games and practising to count forwards and backwards. Roll the dice. Can you tell what the number is without having to count?

Help your grown-ups to do some baking? Help use the scales and measuring jug to measure the ingredients. How many spoonfuls will you need?

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 the shopping list for dinner. What will you need?

Can you play at being an explorer? Plan where you will go and make a list of what you will need to take with you. You could write a diary of your adventure.

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

### Understanding of the World

Look at the night sky while it is still dark early in the evening. What can you spot? What does the moon look like today? Does it always look like that?

Look on a map and find places that you have visited with your family. How did you get there?

Find a picture of yourself when you were smaller. How have you changed?

### Personal, Social & Emotional Development

Practise playing board or card game and taking turns with your family.

Enjoy recalling your day with your family and telling them about something new you learnt.

Recall things that you have done as a family. Do they remember things that you don't? It's 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 "Whatever Next" by Jill Murphy and 'The Way Back Home' by Oliver Jeffers.*

### Physical Development

Practise taking on and off your coat and shoes independently.

Practise throwing and catching skills. Can you make up a game to practise your aiming?

Challenge yourselves to take some risks in the park/playground. How high can you climb? Can you use the climbing wall hand and foot holds?

### Expressive arts and Design

Design your own planet. Draw around a circle and then use different colours for the surface.

Practise singing twinkle twinkle little star and then make an instrument to accompany your song. Could you find something to put in a bottle to make tinkling sounds?

Make up your own song about space using a tune that you know well - try using the tune to incy wincy spider.

Use some recycled materials to make your own rocket or flying saucer. What will it look like and where will it go?