

# Primrose Hill Primary School

Princess Road, Regent's Park, London NW1 8JL

Tel: 020 7722 8500

[admin@primrosehill.camden.sch.uk](mailto:admin@primrosehill.camden.sch.uk)

[www.primrosehill.camden.sch.uk](http://www.primrosehill.camden.sch.uk)



**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 Ladybirds.

## **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;**

**'Jack and the Beanstalk'**

and looking at growing our very own beanstalks!

In maths, we will look at time, night and day. We will be introducing zero and representing, comparing and the composition of 4,5,6,7 and 8 and making pairs. In phonics, we will be revisiting phase 2 sounds and learning phase 3 sounds (new sounds, tricky words and high frequency words are sent home each week on Tapestry).

**Other exciting festivals and celebrations happening this half term include Chinese New Year and National Storytelling week.**

## **Reading and phonics**

**Phonics:** We will continue to teach phonics 4 times a week. On Friday, we will send a tapestry memo sharing with you which sounds the children have learnt that week.

**Reading with the teacher** Three days a week, your child will read a Little Wandle guided reading book with their teacher/TA. At the end of each week they will bring this book home to read with you. You will know which book it is as it will have 'Collins Big Cat Phonics for Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised' in the top left corner. Please look at the instructions on the inside cover to help you support your child's reading at home.

**The book will then need to be returned on Thursday** so that the sets can be collected in. It is really important that you look after the book and return it each week (perhaps keep it at home till Thursday so it does not end up in the corridor library). Each book is part of a set that is needed for a group of readers. If you lose the book we will ask for a payment of £6.50 so we can replace it. Until the book is returned (or paid for if lost) we will not be able to provide a new book.

*Head Teacher: Harsha Patel*

**Reading for pleasure** Your child will also be given the opportunity to take home books of their choice to read for pleasure. They can select new books every day from the corridor library, therefore please continue to bring book bags in on a daily basis. The reading diaries now fit in with the new phonics programme. Please read through it carefully so that you understand how it is used and share these with your child, add comments and support your child to make their own comments.

As reading is a priority for all children, the school has also invested in **Reading Eggs** online reading programme - all children should have received a log in already, but you can ask Maria or Liam if you have mislaid this.

### **Buddy reading**

We will be joining year 4 for buddy reading, this will be a lovely opportunity for ladybirds to make friends with children further up the school and share books together.

### **Library visit**

We are very excited to begin our trips to **Primrose Hill Library on a Tuesday afternoon, setting off at 1.45 and returning for the end of the day.** It is a lovely opportunity for the children to have a story read to them by the library staff and explore the books in the library. Half the class would visit once every 2 weeks. **For this to happen we will need 2 parent volunteers. If you can help with this please put your name down on the sign up sheet in the corridor.**

### **PE & Music**

Your child's PE & Music session will be every **MONDAY**. Children need to come into school dressed in their PE kits on this day. Please make sure their PE t-shirts and jumpers are named.

### **Stay and Play**

In Ladybirds, we will continue to offer our stay and play session **every Wednesday** morning 8:45 until 9:20 am starting on 11th January . This will be on a two week cycle, please find attached your child's days. This is an opportunity to explore the classroom, play, and read a story with your child.

**Mystery Reader is every Friday.** Due to popular demand our mystery reader slots have all been taken up till the end of March. Please put your name down for after then, a new sign up sheet is in the corridor.

### **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 - 9:00 am** 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

*Head Teacher: Harsha Patel*

example, hanging their coat up and self-registering themselves each day. **After 9:00 am 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 your allocated fence to the outside area) is at **3:25 pm**

### 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 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 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 Spring 2022' for £7.50.** We would be really **grateful if this could be paid by Friday 20th January**. 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**. As we are now heading into 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! 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

*Head Teacher: Harsha Patel*

with you, for example we send through the phonic sounds we have learnt each week. You can also post us videos and photos of the exciting things your child does at home.

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,

Maria, Liam and the Team

#### **Communication and Language**

Talk about the change in the season and what this looks like. Think about the colours of the leaves, the fog in the sky etc...

Talk about things that happened in the past. Things you do every week and things that are going to happen in the future.

#### **Expressive arts and Design**

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

Look at the artist Andy Goldworthy for inspiration

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

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

#### **Numeracy**

Practice recalling number bonds to 5 and 10.

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...

***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 'Jack and the Beanstalk'***

#### **Physical Development**

Practise taking on and off your coat independently.  
Practise tying shoe laces.

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

#### **Literacy**

Practise the phonics sounds you have learnt, you could make this into a bingo or a snap game.

Read your guided reading book at home, practise blending to read the words.

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 the World**

Look at the change of the seasons, can you see plants beginning to grow from the ground.

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

Perhaps you can grow a bean and make a bean diary at home.

#### **Personal, Social & Emotional Development**

Practise sharing toys with your family.

Play turn taking games with friends and family.

Enjoy telling stories about your day over dinner or breakfast. Share the best and worst parts of your day and why. It's good to talk!