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Red Class Newsletter - Autumn Term 2006

Dear Parent/ Carer,

I am really pleased to welcome you and your child to Red Class at Emersons Green Primary School. The children have had a great start and have settled very quickly and comfortably into school life.

Each term I will be writing a newsletter to inform you of current topics that the children will be concentrating on and giving some ideas of how we can work together to support your child's learning at home.

Our P.E. days are Monday and Wednesday. Please make sure that your child has appropriate, labelled clothing in school (shorts, t-shirt and footwear).

It would also be really helpful if you could also send a pair of wellies and a waterproof coat to keep in school as we will be using the outdoor area in all types of weather. This will enable us to go on lots of messy adventures!

Our main topic this term will be 'Ourselves'. This will include thinking about our body parts, our history and birthday. As part of this topic I will be making a display and discussing with the children how they have changed. If it is possible please send in a picture of your child when they were a baby and we will take photographs of them now in school to compare.

On Monday afternoons we will have some 'show and tell' time where the children can bring something small from home to show the rest of the class and tell them a little bit about it. We would appreciate it if these items could be based around our topic to further support their learning.

We will also be focussing on nursery rhymes and traditional stories in literacy. It would be great if you could share any books of this type with your child. I will also be starting to teach the children phonics and they will be bringing home a sound sheet to colour in. I will send home some more information about this later in the term.

You can help your child by:

- Recognising each of the 42 sounds. (Please don't rush ahead, wait until the sound sheets come home for you to reinforce what we have learnt in school.)
- To hear and identify rhyming words.
- Looking at picture books, describing pictures using sentences.
- To start sounding out words in stories.
- Following words left to right in texts, pointing to individual words.
- Asking your child to describe something they have seen or done.
- Looking for the sounds they have learnt anywhere and everywhere!
- Sharing books, comics, magazines, labels, newspapers – ANYTHING!
- Writing full names using correct letter formation.

Our mathematical development will be focussed on recognising, counting and ordering numbers. We will also look at pattern and simple 2D shapes.

You can help your child by:

- Playing number games.
- Having a 'number of the week' and searching for that number in and out of the home.
- Counting anything and everything from steps to knives and forks!
- Problem solving in the kitchen (eg 'I need two more potatoes, how many will I have all together?').
- Asking your child to pay for small items in a shop.
- Discussing what day of the week it is when you wake up.

I will also be setting up a meeting to discuss how we teach reading in Red Class and let you know the process for selecting and changing books. I will contact you soon with the date and time.

At the end of the day, please come into the reception playground at hometime. We will not let children out of the classroom until we can see a parent or carer, please speak to your child about the importance of staying in the class until they are told they can go.

I know that you have had a lot of information given to you recently, so if there are any questions I have not answered or if you have any concerns please don't hesitate to come and see me in the classroom.

Thank you for your support,

Beth Calvert