



## Starfish Pre-school

### Rye Community Primary School

Dear Parents and Carers,

We would like to welcome you and your children back to Term 5. This term the children will be focusing on a topic called 'Into the Woods'. We will be discussing plants and how they grow, looking at animal habitats and thinking about how we can look after the environment. We will be using our 'senses' to explore things in our local environment

The children will also be encouraged to think about how things work and to try to answer 'why' questions.

As part of developing their understanding of plants, the children will have an opportunity to plant a sunflower and observe what happens. The children will also start exploring with water and investigate which objects float or sink.

As part of our learning, we will be reading a wide variety of texts.

Some of the books we will be reading are: Postman Bear, Little Rabbit Foo foo, We're going On a Bear Hunt, The Woods, Tidy and The Gruffalo

#### Spring planting

If you have any spare bulbs, seeds or compost that you are no longer using then please bring them in for the children to use in the pre-school. We will be organising a 'potting shed' in our outside area. The children will really enjoy planting things and watching them grow. We put some melon seeds in the soil last term and when looking at the seeds now, we have found that they seem to have sprouted!

#### Reading

We have been sending home a weekly reading book. Please ensure you take good care of the book and return it once it has been read. Books will be changed weekly. It is important that you read with your child every day. Please write a short note in your child's book diary to let us know that you have read the book.

Whilst you are reading with your child, pause to ask them some questions to check that they understand the story. For example, you could ask how a character may feel. You could ask them what you think may happen next and at the end of the story.

Also, we encourage children to recognise familiar signs and symbols on packaging and advertising:

#### How You Can Help

- Model being a reader to them. You are their heroes; if they see you reading they will copy!
- Support your child to retell a familiar story. Talk to you child about what happens in the beginning, middle and end.
- Take a look at the videos and support materials on Little Wandle  
<https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents/>





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This term we will be covering:

- Using position words to say where an object is – for example, “The bag is under the table,” – with no pointing.
- Describing a familiar route.
- We will talk about and identify the patterns around us. For example: stripes on clothes, designs on rugs and wallpaper. Use informal language like ‘pointy’, ‘spotty’, ‘blobs’ etc.
- We will extend and create ABAB patterns – stick, leaf, stick, leaf. Once successful, we will try to notice and correct an error in a repeating pattern.
- We will also begin to describe a sequence of events, real or fictional, using words such as ‘first’, ‘then...’

#### Forest School sessions and PE

The children will recommence their Forest School sessions on Wednesday afternoons. Please send your child into school with a puddle suit, wellies and a change of warm clothes. Please ensure all items are named.

The children’s PE lesson will be on a Thursday morning. Please ensure children wear a tracksuit and trainers.

#### Super Star Stories and WOW moments

Please complete and return the Super Star story with your child. We use the information on these to help with our planning. Children learn best when following their own interests and we strive to provide engaging and personalised learning experiences for the children.

Soon we will be sending home some WOW moment cards. We would love you to share any WOW experiences that the children have had at home.

Dummies - We understand that some younger children find a dummy comforting, but we are trying to discourage the use of these in the pre-school. Please, where possible leave them at home. Thank you.

#### Potty training

Please inform a member of staff if you are considering starting to potty train your child and we can support them when they are at pre-school. Did you know that your local health visitor can also support you at home? Call the health visitor on 01424 723070, or email [esh-tr.hv-rural@nhs.net](mailto:esh-tr.hv-rural@nhs.net) for further support. The following website has also been recommended by the health visiting service: ERIC website and helpline: <https://www.eric.org.uk/poo-and-wee>

Thank you for your support,

The Pre-school staff