



## Danbury Park Community Primary School

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Deputy Headteacher: Miss D Johnston BA

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Dear Parents,

Welcome to Danbury Park and Class Jay!

We have an exciting term ahead of us centred around our topic 'All Creatures great and small.' We have already booked an in school animal experience for the children which we know they will enjoy and we will use our topic of animals to engage the children with their learning as they begin their school journey. In this letter, you will find an outline of the Autumn term where we will explain all the different areas of learning and what the children will be working on this term. We hope you will find this useful when working with your child at home.

### Curriculum Overview

#### *Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSED)*

As the children will be new to school, we will help them to settle into their class and become familiar with their peers and other adults. We teach the children to share resources, ask to join in or initiate play and develop a better understanding of their emotions.

#### *Communication and Language*

In EYFS we enjoy sharing stories. We encourage the children to discuss the story, make predictions and think about the characters and how they are or could be feeling. As the children develop their listening, we support their development in speaking in small groups and whole class situations. We encourage them to express their own ideas and feelings and ask how and why questions.

#### *Physical development*

This area is divided into gross motor skills and fine motor skills.

Fine motor skills focuses on teaching the children to hold a pencil in the tripod grip and use a range of tools such a scissors, paintbrushes and cutlery.

Gross motor skills are mostly taught during our PE sessions where children are taught a variety of skills and games to help develop their balance and coordination.

### *Literacy*

Each week we will be looking at a different book linked to our topic. The children will develop their writing skills through a range of tasks such as writing labels for different toys and captions for pictures. This will lead to the development of full sentences, letters and stories. Initially we will support the children in spelling the words they wish to use, but as their phonic knowledge improves, we will encourage them to identify the sounds in words.

### *Maths*

We spend the first term becoming familiar with numbers 1-10. This gives the children a deeper understanding of numbers for example one is the same as 1 apple and the value of 1p and a circle has 1 side etc. The children will be taught how to form these numbers correctly and to recognise them in their different forms. We will also be looking, matching and sorting and will be expected to explain our reasoning.

### *Understanding the world*

During these sessions, we give the children opportunities to talk about their lives, the lives of people around them and their role in society. We start with discussing someone who they find special and why. We will look at animals from around the world, their habitats and life cycles.

### *Expressive arts and design*

We have lots of fun experimenting with different colours, medium and techniques to represent animals linked to our topic. We make great use of our role-play areas where children are encouraged to use props and materials to recreate characters. This term we have a vets and a minibeast investigation station.

### **Routines**

Reading Books - will be changed on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday. On a Friday we will also send home a story book to read to your child over the weekend. We suggest that you spend one night reading their book and another on their phase 2 sound and tricky word card and alternate this as we understand not all children are willing to sit and complete both after a long day at school. We spend the first few weeks of school getting to know your child and assessing them so you will not receive a reading book or phase card until after we have done this. We will be holding a reading meeting on Wednesday 27th September at 2.45 in the school hall. We will use this time to explain to you all how our reading system works. A separate letter will be sent out explaining this meeting.

PE will be on Wednesday morning and Friday morning. We encourage the children to get themselves ready for the lesson to develop their independence. Therefore, on these days if you could avoid clothing which your child finds tricky it would help. We are also not allowed to take earrings out so these need to be removed before school on PE

days. We do go outside in most weather conditions so please ensure your child has a



tracksuit in their PE bag for when the weather starts to turn.

Let's Present will be on a Wednesday afternoon - this is a part of our speaking and listening curriculum. Each child will be allocated a date for their presentation, where they have the opportunity to bring in something they would like the rest of the class to see and hear about. We will start this in October and we will send out a separate letter with more information.

Wellie walks - once the children are settled we will begin our wellie walks. These are short walks to Danbury Country Park as we are lucky enough to have access from our school grounds. The children enjoy walking there looking at seasonal change to help develop their understanding of the world. We always appreciate any help on these walks so when we give you the dates, please let us know if you can join us.

### Top Tips

Once you receive your phase card and reading books, try to listen to your child read as often as possible even a couple of pages will help reinforce the sounds they learn at school.

Read to your child - it is important that they can hear expression in your reading, which will help them as their reading develops. Listening to stories or information that they may not be able to access by themselves is also beneficial to their learning development, vocabulary and imagination.

Practise their sounds on a regular basis - in the bath, on the way to school whenever you have time.

Please try to complete the weekend challenges we set on a Friday, they do help to develop links between home and school learning and reinforce what we are teaching your child.

Enjoy seeing their progress and make it fun!

We look forward to getting to know you and your child over the year!  
If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us.

Many Thanks,

Mrs Crouch and Miss Vogel.