



Welcome to the first Starfish Class and Seahorse Class Newsletter!



Yes that's right..... We have a new whole school theme thinking about the oceans and how we can look after the animals that live in them. Our F2 class are "Starfish" and our F1 class are "Seahorses".

For the first couple of weeks we will be learning all about these animals and building up our class identities. Lots of talk too about the holiday we have just had!

After that we are leaping into our topic for the Autumn 1 term. "Why is Water Wet? Take a look on the back of this letter to see what we will be learning when we investigate this big question.

You may have noticed that we have a complete change in the classroom and altered some of the routines.

We will be opening the new side door entrance at 8:50 for the F2 Starfish children to start to come in first. This will allow them to be ready for the beginning of the school day at 9:00am when they take part in phonics activities linked to the rest of the school. Mrs Boon will be outside to greet the F1 children and if you need to pass on a message either for F1 or F2 Mrs Boon will be available then. We would appreciate it if the F1 Seahorse Class could wait until 9:00am to come in. Obviously if the weather is bad we will open up the doors to everyone as soon as we can.

We have created a parent and child area by using the side doors now to come in. This area incorporates a class notice board where we will display lots of information about the school day. The children will be learning how to register themselves and tell us whether they are having a school dinner or a packed lunch. We have curiosity cubes and observation stations for you talk about with your child as you come in. We have put up new clothes pegs. The starfish class have a coat peg partner to share with so that we make the best use of our limited cloakroom space. Lunchboxes should be placed inside the wooden crates, whilst bags can be placed on the top of the crate.

We have introduced our box of "Fifty Favourite Stories" for you to take home and share with your child. Keep one of these stories for as long as you would like so that it becomes one of your fifty favourites too. Simply write down which book your child has borrowed in the black folder and sign when you have brought it back. Book bags can be left in the baskets next to the story books.

The children will all be given a reading diary so that you can get in contact with us and tell us how much your child enjoyed their story. If you can't tell us in person these diaries are a great way to get in touch with us by writing a note. If you haven't got time to put a comment a simple smiley face will let us know how well your child joined in with your story.

The children have a specific box where they can keep their PE kits safe and sound. We are going to be doing some form of PE each day so bring the kits in at the beginning of the term and we will send them home for a quick wash every holiday. PE kits should be in a simple draw string bag so that we can fit them all in. PE kits should be a dark pair of shorts with a white T-shirt and plimsolls.

Drinks bottles can be placed on the draining board of the children's sink and we will be encouraging the children to access these regularly though-out the day to keep them fully hydrated. A reminder that these should be brought in every day and should contain water only and not juice.

One last request!.....Please put a name on EVERYTHING!



Mrs Lindley or Mrs Gerrard will be available at the end of each school day so you are most welcome to come and chat then, should you wish to discuss anything about your child.



Cornerstones



This half term, we'll practise our letter recognition by fishing letters out of the water tray. We'll learn water-themed vocabulary and start to think about initial sounds. We'll carefully move water from one place to another and between different containers. Getting creative, we'll use watery paints and pipettes to add colour to cloud and raindrop shapes. In our water area, we'll play with blocks, stones, boats and small world animals. What will happen when we spray water onto different materials? Will they be waterproof? Thinking scientifically, we'll explore the shape and depth of puddles, as well as investigating floating, sinking and melting. It might get messy when we make garden soup using petals, leaves and herbs. Using our mathematical skills, we'll count numbered umbrellas and practise ordering numbers. On a rainy day, we'll take a wet walk in our wellies, splashing in puddles and catching the rain.

At the end of the ILP, we'll decorate umbrellas using fabric paints and pens, and invite you to school for a water-themed singalong.

Areas of learning	Early Learning Goals
Communication and language	Listening and attention; Understanding; Speaking
Physical development	Moving and handling; Health and self-care
Personal, social and emotional development	Self-confidence and self-awareness; Making relationships
Literacy	Reading; Writing
Mathematics	Numbers; Shape, space and measures
Understanding the world	The world
Expressive arts and design	Exploring and using media and materials; Being imaginative

Water is wonderful! Why not freeze a range of small toys and objects in water and then excavate the frozen treasures by melting the ice with salt and water? You could also put different colours of food colouring in cups of water and explore colour mixing using your 'potions'. Alternatively, create colourful outdoor artwork with chalk and water.