



## Curriculum Newsletter Foundation September 2017

September 5<sup>th</sup> 2017

Dear Parents,

Welcome to your first termly newsletter. At the start of each term our curriculum newsletters will outline our planning for the term and let you know about important dates. Each week you will receive a weekly note in the green books. This will let you know about each week in more detail.

Our focus for the start of term is to make sure that your children settle happily into school and get to know each other and us well with a good understanding of the expectations of school. For the first four weeks of term your child will be undertaking a baseline assessment, something we have always done at Manor. This enables us to set learning targets and measure progress. Our work for the first few weeks will be largely child led as we have to assess starting points. We will share our findings with you later in the term at parent/teacher meetings and set some targets to work on. This assessment is really useful in helping us to develop planning which will meet needs specifically.

We have also planned some broad topics which will be supplemented by the children's own ideas and target areas. To begin with we will look at traditional stories such as Goldilocks, The Billy Goats Gruff and The Enormous Turnip. These stories will help us to develop key personal and social skills such as listening to our friends, staying safe, taking care of things and each other, what to do if we are worried and how to take on new challenges with confidence. The stories will also inspire lots of creative opportunities to build houses and bridges, paint and draw trolls and act out stories using a range of voices. Hopefully we will also be able to look at different houses locally and compare where people live and plant some of our own vegetables in time for Christmas dinner!

We will then look at stories such as We're Going on a Bear Hunt and the Gruffalo stories. We will visit the woods to act out the stories and make some stick people. During each topic, there will be welly walks to broaden the learning and maximize the learning on our doorstep. Please leave all outdoor gear in school and let us know if you would like to join us.

The children will have daily skills sessions where they will be doing things like counting and recognising numbers to 10 and 20, learning the days of the week, sharing writing and reading and learning about school routines. There will be a daily snack break when we will share food we have made and the fruit we have at school. For the first half of term this will be things like fruit smoothies and kebabs, vegetable soup and fruit crumbles.

Our daily Language sessions will encompass speaking, listening, phonics, stories, reading and writing. There will also be a taught physical activity each day.

After the baseline assessments we will start to teach the children phonics on a daily basis and will keep you updated on the sounds they have learnt and the ways you can help at home.

Just before half term we will be learning about Harvest and will be holding a Harvest Apple Tea on 20th October. The children will be making apple recipes for this event.

After the holiday, we will learn about the celebration of Diwali and also the history of Guy Fawkes. Along with a focus on journeys using the texts 'The Train Ride' and 'On The Road'. There will be a Key Stage One and Foundation Christmas production so the final two weeks of the term will be our Christmas activities.

Through all our learning, we encourage a Growth Mindset. We introduce this through different characters such as Doris the Duck (who doesn't give up). In a fun way, these characters help us to instil good learning behaviours, for example-resilience and perseverance.

Every week in the home school book, we will tell you what is happening at school and advise you about anything your child might need for the coming week. Please do use these books to share anything your child has done at home and to ask any questions you may have. We try to respond to queries as quickly as we can but we will always be here after school so please do ask if there is anything that you are worried about. We will often send home WOW forms for you to share great home learning and experiences with us.

Hugs and Spotty (our toys) will be sent home with 'kind friends' each week. The children help to decide whose turn it is and all we ask is that you let us know what they have shared with you with text and pictures. This is an important part of our learning in social development. We are always striving for the children to be as independent as possible in their learning. An important part of this is coming independently into school. We aim for all children to be able to this by half term and will be very grateful for your support.

We are always grateful for old newspapers, yogurt pots, cardboard tubes and anything else that we can use for modelling. Also, if you could send in the summer scrapbooks, we would be very grateful. The children enjoy sharing these and it provides a great opportunity for talking and making friends.

Finally, could we make a plea that all kit is really well labelled so that we can easily keep track of things.

We have been amazed by your children's confidence this week and are looking forward to a very exciting term and hope that many of you will be able to join us in class often, once your children are settled and confident to be in school.

Many thanks.

Foundation Team

**Dates-** Coffee/ Tea afternoon –October 2nd –focus on Reading 2pm

December 4<sup>th</sup> – question and answer session, review first term 2pm

Apple Tea- 20<sup>th</sup> October 2pm

Xmas performance- December 7th

We are also looking into a trip to the Drum Theatre at Christmas to see a production.