

Westfield Foundation Stage Newsletter



Autumn 1

Welcome to Westfield!

Settling in

We hope your child is settling into their nurture group and class and making friends. We have been exploring the inside and outside areas and learning our new rules and routines. Please check that coats, shoes, uniform, PE kit, water bottles and lunch boxes are all clearly named.

PE

PE is every **Thursday**. Your child will need a P.E bag with their kit in. This will stay hung on their peg in school. We will send it home to be washed at the end of the half term. Please send them with an indoor and outdoor kit.

Please practise putting on and taking off sweatshirts and socks/ tights at home. This will help your child change for PE independently. Turning clothes the right way out is tricky too. If your child wears earrings, please cover them with a plaster or remove them and leave them at home on these days.

Seesaw

Signing up to 'Seesaw' will give you instant access to lots of beautiful pictures of activities your children will participate in at school. Important reminders of exciting school events such as dress up days will also be posted on this app'. Please look out for our letter explaining how to join. This will be in your child's bag soon! It will enable you to directly message teaching staff.



Activity Money

Please don't forget to pay your £15 activity money to your child's group leader for the whole year. We use this money to buy resources like bulbs, potting compost, play dough ingredients, sand and party refreshments. Thank you to those who have already done this. This really helps us to enrich the curriculum for the children.



Our topics

This half term we will be focusing on trying to get to know all our new children. The children will be talking about themselves and their likes and dislikes. We will be adapting the environment so that activities and areas cater for the children's fascinations and interests.

Our weekly themes this half term will be:

- All about me
- Dinosaurs (2 weeks)
- Little Red Hen
- Harvest Festival
- Autumn and Hibernation
- Diwali



Water bottles and bookbags

Please remember to send water bottles full every day. This must be water and not juice. Please can the children carry bottles in their hands rather than in book bags. Even if the bottle is in a plastic bag, water sometimes leaks out. We cannot afford to replace reading books if they get wet. If your child is staying for packed lunch, please ensure they have a separate drink inside their packed lunch box.



Home activities

When our initial baseline assessments are completed, your child will be given some letter sounds to learn. These will be written in their very own 'Green phonics book'. Please help them pronounce the letter sounds correctly and use the actions described in the front of the book. Making the correct letter sounds will help your child with reading and spelling. Please only work on the sounds given to you. These will be clearly dated.

Your child will also soon bring home a 'Special Book'. These are given out on a Friday for your child to complete over the weekend and return the following Wednesday. This is for them to record something they have done over the weekend to share with the group during circle time. The children love this chance to talk about special times outside of school.

Reading books

Your child will soon be given a reading book with no words. These are pre-reading books and teach children how a book works. Please encourage your child to talk about the pictures and retell the story in their own words. Ask them questions about the pictures and let your child imagine what the characters might say and how they might feel.

Children who are confident with letter sounds will be taught how to blend sounds together to make two and three letter words. They will then be given books with simple words and sentences.

If children read at least 3 times each week, they will be rewarded with a certificate at the end of each half term. This is one of the best ways to support your child in making progress in their reading and is one of our homework expectations. Your child will be given a reading 'diary'. Please sign this diary each time your child reads and add a comment on their progress. We will add a challenge each half term, too.