



Early Years Foundation Stage Bushmead Primary School

Spring Term 2 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Our value for March is Positivity and the value for April is Forgiveness.

Our well-being theme this half term is 'Connect with Nature'.

Firstly, I would like to welcome our Nursery parents, carers and children to Bushmead Primary & Nursery School! It has been wonderful to meet you all this term and have been delighted at how well all of our new pupils have settled in.

It is very hard to believe that we are just over half way through the year! It does not seem very long ago that we welcomed our new Reception classes to Bushmead, and now look at them! We are immensely proud of the confident, inquisitive and hard working children they are becoming.

This half term we continue to learn all about the different saints' days associated with the United Kingdom. continued learning about the Saints day for the UK. Last term we focussed on St. Andrew, this term we will find out about St. David (Wales), St. Patrick (Ireland) and later in the year, St. George (England). The children thoroughly enjoy these days, looking at where the countries are on maps, creating artwork, watching videos of how children celebrate these special days and tasting food!

We shall also continue to learn about special days associated with different religions and cultures. So far this year we have looked at Diwali (Hindu and Sikh), Hanukkah (Jewish) and Christmas (Christian). We have looked at Chinese New Year earlier this term, and will be finding out about Easter (Christian) Eid (Islam) too.

Our Skills focus for this half term is 'The Great Outdoors' and we shall be investigating how seeds grow, the parts of plants, worms and getting busy growing flowers and vegetables for our gardens, ready for the summer ahead.

Homework and Reading- Reception

Reading is the gateway to learning. Pupils who struggle with the basic mechanics can quickly fall behind. Being able to read accurately by age 6 has a strong correlation with future academic success. (Ofsted, Gov.uk)

Thank you so much to the parents who support their children wonderfully with their reading at home. We can see from the comments in the Reading Records that fantastic discussions around the books are and the sharing of school readers is happening often. Your support is so appreciated and makes a huge difference to the progress your child will make.

We still do, though have quite a number of parents that are not regularly reading at home with their child. We cannot reiterate how important this is. As the quote above states, these early years are crucial to getting the basics of reading works embedded to enable our children to access all areas of the curriculum and reach their full potential. Our children should be reading at least three times a week at home and a comment must be made in their books each time. If there are no comments written, staff will make the assumption that no reading has happened at home.

Please also remember, reading forms part of the school homework policy. Reading, phonics and the further activity shared weekly on ClassDojo are not optional and all pupils should be completing these.

Reading- Nursery

After Easter, we shall be introducing a home story sharing reading activity for our children. More details will follow nearer the time.

Summer Uniform

After Easter, our children may wear summer uniforms if they wish. Ours is different from the rest of the school. Here is a reminder of what Nursery and Reception children can wear:

- ★ A plain white t shirt
- ★ A plain pair of black shorts (no logos, stripes or pictures)
- ★ A plain red sweatshirt
- ★ Plain white or black socks
- ★ Plain white or plain black trainers

SUMMER DRESSES, CULOTTES, SKIRTS or SANDALS ARE NOT ALLOWED.

Please ensure everything is very clearly labelled. We still have a lot of unnamed uniform items and it makes returning it to the correct child very difficult.

Dates and Events happening this half term

- Book Week and World Book Day
- Science Week
- Red Nose Day (non uniform day- donations)
- Parent Teacher Consultations
- Eid and Easter cake sale fundraiser

Curriculum Overview

Phonics

- ★ Learning the phonemes: ai ee igh oa ar or oo (zoom) oo (book) ur ow oi ear air er
- ★ Continuing to practise word building and blending, including words with double letters: dd mm tt bb rr gg pp ff and longer words
- ★ Learn the tricky words: was you they my by all are sure pure

Maths

- ★ Subitising, counting and ordering numbers to 5
- ★ Using ordinal numbers to describe order (1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc)
- ★ Using the part-part-whole model to look at different ways to make 7,8,9 and 10
- ★ Comparing amounts using the language of 'more than' 'fewer than' and 'equal to'

Skills

- ★ To join in stories using actions, props and repetition
- ★ To write words, captions and sentences- labels, explanations and write about experiences and topics we have learnt about.
- ★ To talk about their environment and make suggestions for how it could be better
- ★ To make observational drawings and paintings of plants and flowers using a range of materials and tools
- ★ To learn about and investigate the life cycle of a plant
- ★ To carry out simple experiments to find out what seeds need to grow
- ★ To help plant seeds and bulbs in our garden, make observations and talk about changes they see
- ★ To use ICT to record ideas, performances and take photographs

PE

- ★ To link movements together to create short routines, and thinking about how to improve their performances
- ★ To learn to play games using good control of their movements and equipment.
- ★ To show good cooperation skills and sportsmanship through game play.

Music

- ★ Continue to build our singing skills
- ★ To play simple instruments in time with a pulse.
- ★ To compose our own music- make decisions on how to play the different instruments.

Kind regards,

The Early Years Foundation Stage Team

Miss Kiff, Miss Kelly, Mrs. Billington, Mrs. Campbell, Mrs. Scott, Mrs. Knubley and Mrs. Courtney

Our Vision:

At Bushmead, children are empowered to be active, confident learners where they are inspired to creative and excel.

