



## Reception Learning Letter

January 2019 Term 3

*Dear children and families,*

We would like to wish you a peaceful year in 2019. Plenty of news about the children's learning to share with you, along with ideas as to how you can support them in their journey.

### Forest School



Good news! We are all set to start Forest School sessions in Term 4. Here is some basic information about Forest School:

- Each child will be in a group of 15 children experiencing a block of six, morning or afternoon sessions.
- The sessions are run by **Sophie Clegg**, a fully qualified Forest School Leader, supported by one of our Teaching Assistants *and* parent volunteers.
- Forest School is held at a recognised site, at Boundary Brook, near to Larkrise Primary School.
- The walk to and back from the site takes approximately 10 minutes.
- Usual dropping off and collecting place and time
- Children's safety and well-being will always be a priority.



### What will the children learn at Forest School?

The children will be supported to find the diverse opportunities for child led play and exploration that the rich environment of Boundary Brook offers them. This may lead us to explore seasonal changes, plant spring bulbs, look for frogspawn and dig ditches. They will build dens and learn about making fires and simple cooking in the outdoors. They will do some litter picking and learn about the importance of looking after our surroundings and environment. Their learning in Forest School will be linked to that in School. They will undoubtedly have fun, experience working in a team, and develop their awareness of how to protect and contribute to a better world.

### What can I do to help?

- If **you or a family member are able to come along with Sophie**, either in the morning or afternoon, your support would be greatly appreciated! There will be a sign-up sheet on the class parent board. If you need any further information, please speak to one of us.
- **Please let us have your voluntary contribution** (as already agreed in December) of at least £12 in total for the six sessions. Please give this to Carole in a named envelope. This can be paid in two instalments of £6.
- Your contributions will pay about a third of the actual costs of about £2000.
- Please support our fundraising to pay for the rest. Your ideas are most welcome.
- A thank you to Merryn's mum, Olivia Thompson (Strawberries), for persuading me to go ahead with her idea and giving us such great support

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Development can only take place when children are actively involved, when they are occupied with a high, non-stop degree of concentration, when they are interested, when they GIVE THEMSELVES completely, when they use all their (mental) abilities to invent and MAKE new things and when this gives them a high degree of satisfaction and pleasure.

Ferre Laevers

## Our learning themes

Our learning theme this term is around 'Traditional Tales', in which we take a look at different versions of stories drawn from many cultures and standpoints. The theme, including 'Heroes and Villains' and 'Princes and Princesses' relates closely to our current, staff development topic of 'Equality, Inclusion and Diversity'. Clearly, children are subject to many stories, films and merchandise that re-enforce stereotypes about their place, worth and potential in society. We strive for a world in which we are all equal. And so, Traditional Tales need to be handled with sensitivity and care, especially with young children. For this reason, we seek to use selected tales in a way that helps develop the children's early understanding of what is right, fair and possible. We want this, and other themes, to help children to listen, talk, think, and to question. In this way, and with your support, the children will become stronger and more confident in themselves.



### Christmas Nativity

The children were so pleased with your response to their Nativity performance; thank-you!

In response to your many requests, we are looking to make a DVD of the performance for you to purchase. Please let Carole know if you do not wish your child to appear on the DVD.

## Happy news

We are delighted to 'officially' let you know that Chloe Jackson, one of Teaching Assistants in Mango Class, is expecting a baby in the Summer. The children are very excited about it!

## Important reminders and requests

- **Spare clothing for your child:** Please can you ensure that your child has a bag of spare clothes to hang on their hook in case of little emergencies/accidents and wet weather.
- **Labels on clothing:** Please write or put a name label on clothing, such as coats, scarves and wellies.

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- **Getting to school on time:** Register in Reception is at 9am. You can arrive (and stay) from 8.45am, but arriving after 9am is officially 'late' and can be very unsettling for all of the children.



- **If you come to school by car:** Please do not stop by cones and please do not run your car's engine when dropping off or collecting near the school. The fumes are very unhealthy, especially for our little ones, and do nothing but harm to our environment. *Thank-you*

### **Dates for your diary...**



**Last day of Term 3:** Friday 15 February

**First day of Term 4:** Monday 25 February

**Deadline for applying for Holiday Club:** Wednesday, 6 February (3pm)

Best wishes

**From Chris and the Reception Team-** Sarah, Anne-Marie, Sarah, Tracy, Jola, Carol & Chloe

**PLEASE RETURN THIS COMPLETED FORM TO CAROLE BY FRIDAY 8 FEBRUARY**

I enclose the sum of £\_\_\_\_\_ as my voluntary contribution for the six sessions of Forest School (£12)

Child's name\_\_\_\_\_ Class\_\_\_\_\_

I would like to support my child's Forest School by joining each session, including walking to and back from Boundary Brook: Yes/No (please circle/delete)



Signed\_\_\_\_\_ (parent/guardian)

Print name \_\_\_\_\_