



# Woodland Department Newsletter



## September 2018



We hope you all had a lovely summer!

We are delighted with how well the pupils are settling back into the school routine.

We welcome some new pupils and members of staff to Woodland Department this term. We have been looking forward to you all joining us, and hope you are very happy here.



### Communication between home and school



We will continue to use home/school diaries to share information with you. Please write in this diary, phone school or send us an email to communicate with us if you don't see us face-to-face at school drop off and pick up. Meadow Class have begun using Class Dojo which is an electronic communication system. Other classes may trial this system in due course. We appreciate messages from home and find them very helpful.

Parent and teacher meetings are due to take place during the week before half term. You will receive more information about this nearer the time.



### Topic and Curriculum



The department topic for the term is 'Opposites', and will include 'light and dark', and a range of other contrasting experiences. Each class teacher has differentiated this topic for the age, ability and interests of the pupils in the class. Some sessions such as Art, Music and Sensory Stories may link to the topic, and others like Physical Development and Cognition & Learning are likely to not be linked to the topic.



### Save the Date

You will be invited to our Art gallery on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> November at 10am. Further information to follow.



### Meadow Class

Meadow Class welcome two new pupils, Jacob and Yanis to the class this year, as well as Emily who is a new member of staff. This term we will be using the story 'Night Monkey, Day Monkey' by Julia Donaldson. Our daily sessions will be very child led and include lots of fun learning through play. Hazel has recently completed her Rebound refresher training and is excited about the children trying some new activities on the trampoline to build strength and also develop communication skills. During ComMUSICation sessions we will be learning some new songs and also including some old, familiar songs that will be sung in a range of different ways (fast and slow, low and high, loud and quiet).

*Kara*



## Bluebell Class

In Bluebell Class we have been busy settling into the new classroom and getting to know our new friend Toby, and also building relationships with the class staff. We are learning our new routine full of songs, exploration and communication. We are introducing a cooking/ food exploration session to help us think about opposites and descriptions, such as wet and dry, hot and cold, soft and hard, and crunchy and smooth. We are looking forward to joining Diamond Class (our 'Buddy' class) for drumming sessions every Friday morning.

*Agnieszka*



## Forest Class

Forest class are using 'Silly Opposites' by Dr. Seuss as the sensory story for this term. There will be lots of activities and resources exploring opposites to support the story. We are planning on using and exploring the school environment to practice and develop physical skills. We are especially looking forward to using the rebound and soft play room on Fridays and also joining our 'Buddy' Class called Topaz Class for an interactive singing session.

*Jane*



## Orchard Class

Orchard Class welcome a new pupil, Shameer who is new to the school, and also Amy who is a new member of staff. This term we will be basing our ComMUSICation sessions on 'The Greatest Showman' soundtrack and will be using resonance boards, lighting and props to experience contrast and opposites. Art/messy play activities for this term will include exploring opposites. The children will be using black and white paint in various different ways and will go on to explore opposite textures during messy play after half term.

*Hannah and Amanda*



## The Den Class

The Den class would like to give a warm welcome to the new class members and teaching staff. We are all settling into our new routines and getting to know each other. Our 'Buddy' class is called Emerald Class and we will be meeting with them every Tuesday afternoon. We are looking forward to taking shopping trips in the local community to work on our communication and life skills. This term we will be experiencing opposites during Food Technology sessions by exploring and tasting hot and cold, sweet and sour, and wet and dry food. We will also be making monochrome pictures during our Art sessions using lots of black, white grey and shiny materials.

*Audrey*



We are looking forward to the exciting term ahead of us!

Amanda Brown

(Woodland Department Leader)

