

# Kittens' Class

## Autumn Newsletter



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the Kittens' Class!

We hope you have all had a great break over the summer and enjoyed so much beautiful sunshine! At Kedington Primary Academy we consider communication to be key to a strong effective partnership.

Therefore, if there is anything you would like to discuss, please speak to us after school, make an appointment for a more convenient time, or send us a message on Tapestry. We look forward to working with you!

Mrs Reeder, Mrs Driver, Mrs Bradnam, Mrs Telling and Miss Lawes

### Our Curriculum

We base our Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum on Development Matters and follow the children's interests to make sure they are fully motivated and engaged. We focus on communication, allowing the children to practise developing clear sentences and support them in their interactions with each other.



### Mark Making and Writing

During the first term in the Kittens' Class, your child will be encouraged to firstly develop the pivotal range in their shoulder, increase the fluidity of their elbow and wrist movements and strengthen the dexterity in their fingers, allowing them a successful and comfortable pencil grip for writing.

Using a name card, they will be encouraged to practise forming the letters in their name. Following on from this there will be opportunities using an alphabet mat to begin to form the sounds in as they are covered in our phonics programme. If your child is ready to write and is keen to form lower case letters, we can offer an alphabet mat for home use if this is something you think would be useful. Every child is unique and it is important we allow children to develop learning skills before being pressured to achieve in areas such as writing, therefore we will monitor your child closely and when they are ready, we will support them accordingly in this area.



### Mathematics

Mathematics can be applied everywhere! We plan from your child's interests and will therefore tie in appropriate areas of numeracy. The areas of priority this half term include counting to 10 and deepening understanding numbers to 6. This includes what the numerals look like, what one more and one less is, how they are composed (what numbers can be added together to make the amount i.e. 5 can be 3 and 2 or 3 and 1 and 1) and how to write it. We will also be using shapes to make pictures whilst naming and exploring their properties.

### Phonics

A daily Sounds-Write phonics session will take place each morning in the Kittens' class. This will consist of learning the sounds of the letters in the alphabet (phonemes), which spellings which represent these (graphemes or sound spelling correspondences), and enabling your child to sound out words and blend them together to read. These

sessions are very 'hands on' and active. As these sessions progress, your child will be given a reading book that matches the sounds they have learnt.



### **Forest Wednesdays**

On Wednesday afternoons we will have an outdoor session visiting our nature area at the bottom of the school field. The children will have lots of opportunities to increase their knowledge of the environment and world around them, observe and explore the natural world, and learn about some processes and changes such as the seasons.

### **Discovery Time**

Your child will take part in Discovery Time on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday afternoons. This is a session in our outdoor area where the children can explore and learn through play at lots of different activities on a large scale – from bikes and trikes to the construction area and from the stage to the sand pit



### **Reading with your child and communicating with us**

Until your child is issued with a reading book, we would love to hear about your love of literacy at home. Can your child recognise any sound spellings or recognise rhyme and alliteration? What are your favourite stories to share, and can you retell any parts of them?

We would love to hear about this on Class Dojo. Maybe your child would like to draw a picture of their favourite part of the story or have a go at writing their favourite rhyming words etc.

When we feel your child is ready to start taking reading books home, we will provide a reading record book. Please make sure you write down when you read each night and we will change books weekly when your child is confident with the text. Reading is one of the most important things you can do with your child so please ensure you find a time in the day to add it in to your routine.



### **Learning at home**

**Book of the Week** -Once a week, one of the Kittens will take home a review page and be asked to bring in their favourite book from home. The class will get the opportunity to listen to the story and the child will get the opportunity to share why they enjoy it so much.

**Special Box** – At the end of the week, one Kitten will be given the Special Box to take home for the weekend. They will be asked to fill it with a few items that are special to them. For example, if your child loves swimming, they might want to bring in a badge, certificate or their favourite goggles. If they have just been to the beach they might want to show a special stone or shell they found. The child will get the opportunity to stand in front of the class and tell their friends about their special possessions.

**Showbie** – An invitation to join Showbie will be shared with you soon. This is where we will send a short game or learning activity for you to play at home. For the first term this will be phonics based and after January we will add some maths games too. We will always include a short suggestion and then 'something extra' for you to do if you would like. Please send us a video or voice note of you doing your homework so we can send you back messages of support! This is a great way for parents and carers to learn how children learn the curriculum and will give you some tips in the language we use in class.



### **Tapestry and Dojo**

These are the main platforms for communication between parents and staff. Please pop us any messages on Dojo until Tapestry is set up and then contact on Tapestry. The Kittens team will all be able to see messages that way and make it easier to respond. We will check these regularly, but not usually during teaching hours. If your child is going to be absent from school please contact the school office in the first instance. We use Dojo stories/Tapestry observations to share photographs of some of the activities we do each week and also to share messages with all

parents. Please make sure you receive notifications and check these regularly. Both platforms are very user friendly but please do contact us if you require any support with them.



**PE**

PE will take place on a **Mondays** starting on 19th September. Please come in wearing your PE kit each Monday from this date.



**Uniform**

Please make sure all items of clothing, including PE Kit, shoes, coats, wellies, and book bags/back packs are fully named. It is very difficult for the children (and staff!) to find mislaid uniform including shoes if they are not named. It is very helpful if clothing is labelled so that it easy for your child to recognise and read their name. If anything has been misplaced during the day then please go with your child to the lost property (located in the hall) at the end of the day to collect.

Please could all children be provided a named pair of wellies to keep in school. To protect your child's school shoes and to keep our classroom floor as clean as possible children will wear wellies every afternoon for Discovery Time and Forest Wednesdays. It would be super if your child could bring in their wellies by Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September. Thank you.



**Water Bottles**

We have provided your first named water bottle.  
Your child will be encouraged to fill this up and drink regularly throughout the school day.

