Welcome to the Autumn Term in FS2

Welcome to Foundation Stage 2! We have had a busy start to the term and are really pleased to welcome our new children to Gillshill! The FS2 team includes: Miss Charlesworth & Mrs Lister (RCL) and Mrs McManus (RKM) supported by Miss Fuller, Ms Hanson and Miss Everitt.

We would like to inform you of some important dates for your diary:
Harvest Festival - Friday 27th October (times to be confirmed)
Friday 27th October—School closes for half term
Monday 6th November —School reopens

CURRICULUM & KEY INFORMATION

THEME
Our theme for the first half of the Autumn Term is All About Me and our author is Ian Whybrow.
Our theme for the second half of the Autumn Term is Lights & Celebrations and our author is Tony Ross.
Each area will be linked to our theme and author. Our Early Years outcomes allow us to explore and investigate a wide spectrum of learning, so if you have any resources or ideas, please speak to a member of the FS2 team.

EDUCATIONAL VISITS
Over the next academic year we have planned a number of engaging and curriculum based visits for the pupils, developing and enhancing their learning. These include:
visits in the local community and an exciting trip to a farm...

PE
Indoor P.E. is on a Tuesday morning. Pupils must wear the recommended Gillshill t-shirt or a plain white, black or yellow t-shirt and a plain pair of black shorts. (No football or rugby kits are to be worn). No jewellery is to be worn, so if earrings are not removed micro pore tape/plasters must be provided. Can we please ask that all belongings are clearly labelled and PE kits are kept in school in labelled PE bags only (no back-packs please). Your child does not need an outdoor PE kit so please do not put additional items of clothing in their PE bags. We have continuous outdoor provision in FS2, so please make sure your child has the correct outdoor clothing, appropriate for the weather e.g. hat, scarf, gloves and winter coat when it is cold outside and wellingtons/boots when it is wet/snowing.
**Reading**

We will hold a Reading and Phonics seminar in the first half term. We ask that you read school scheme books (given to you child after the seminar) and share a range of books with your child as much as possible. Please record this in the Home Record Log. School reading books will be changed weekly (each pupil will be given a set day), when they have read with a member of staff or an adult volunteer. Bug Club is also a fantastic reading resource with e-books and questions to support reading development—more details are to follow. If your child has finished their book before it is changed please continue a variety of different books at home or from their Bug Club library. There is strong evidence to show that success in reading is followed by success in writing.

**Allergies**

We must insist that egg sandwiches and nuts are not put in packed lunches please. We have a number of pupils within the school who have serious allergies.

**Voluntary contribution**

We kindly ask for a weekly voluntary contribution of 50p to help subsidise our activities such as play dough, baking and any other consumable materials we use throughout the year. This way we can continue to offer these experiences.

**Behaviour**

We follow the School’s Behaviour Policy using a range of rewards and sanctions appropriate to the children’s age. In FS2 we have the following in place:

**Rewards**

Verbal and written praise is used constantly throughout the school day from all members of the Foundation Stage 2 team as well as the Senior Leadership Team.

Children are awarded with a sticker or a Marvellous Me (more information to follow) for good work, effort and behaviour.

In addition, children are also chosen for our classroom based weekly achievement sessions.

**Sanctions**

Unfortunately, when the children do not follow the rules we talk about the negative behaviour in a positive manner by discussing how we can make ‘good choices’. We will always keep parents informed of low level disruption so that you can talk to your child about school rules and behaviour too.

However, continuous and/or serious behaviour incidents (e.g. biting) are noted in the red behaviour book and the child will be sent to a member of the Senior Leadership Team. In this case parents will be informed and sanctions such as ‘unable to play in that area today’ will be enforced.
HEALTHY SNACKS & DRINKS

We do provide fruit for pupils within Foundation Stage 2. We ask, within Early Years only, for pupils not to bring their own healthy snack or fruit into school. We have several pupils with allergies and feel the only way we can keep them safe and avoid sharing snacks is to provide the children with the items we know are safe on our 'snack trolley'. We appreciate your understanding on this matter.

Please provide a named water bottle, which is taken home daily to be washed and refilled. Pupils can refill their bottles during the school day with water.

STAFF COMMUNICATION

Parents can speak to staff in a morning, at the gate, if they need to pass on a quick message. If you need a confidential chat then home time rather than a morning is more suitable, unless it is an emergency. As you will appreciate, it is very busy getting the children into school and their safety is paramount.

Appointments can also be made at the office for meetings before or after the school day at a mutually convenient time. If you have any questions or queries we would be delighted to answer them; do not hesitate to call in, see us or email.

We look forward to a happy and successful term sharing many exciting educational experiences with the pupils and we look forward to welcoming parents into school to share in the many family friendly activities we have planned.

Miss E Charlesworth  Mrs C Lister  Mrs K McManus  Mrs J Rozenbroek
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