

25th September 2015



Dear Parents & Carers,

All of our new children have now started and are settling in nicely. Please remember to leave a bag on your child's peg with a change of clothes in. If you have any questions please ask a member of the team! **REMINDER – SNACK MONEY £1 PER WEEK!**

1) STAY AND PLAY THURSDAY 1st October

Nursery will be holding a Stay and Play session in which parents/carers come and play in our Nursery with their child. It is a nice opportunity to meet the staff and see your child in their new learning environment. Don't worry if you can't make this one, we will be holding another one next half term in November. You will enter through the Nursery gates when you drop your child off and stay for the session to play with your child. Any questions please ask Mrs Hyland or one of the team.

2) LITERACY

This week we are reading fish themed books like The Rainbow Fish and Sharing a Shell. We will be talking about the title, illustrations and what happened at the beginning, middle and end of the story. Reading with your child is one of the most positive experiences you can give them. When reading ask your child the following questions:-


- What do you think this story is about – how do you know/why do you think that?
- What does this illustration tell us?
- What might happen next (before you turn the page)?
- What happened at the beginning, middle and end?
- Who is your favourite character – why?
- What did you like best about this story?
What else could have happened at the end?

3) COMMUNICATION & LANGUAGE

Over the next few weeks we will be assessing your child's ability in Listening, Understanding and Speaking. Talk to your child about school. Ask them about their friends and teachers and try to get explanations out of them about their likes and dislikes. ASK OPEN-ENDED QUESTIONS that require a longer answer. For example don't ask DO YOU LIKE SCHOOL? Instead ask WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT SCHOOL? Go outside and do a listening walk – what noises can you hear in the environment? What might these things be? Attached to this letter is a Listening walk handout that you can fill in and bring back to school for us to talk about.

4) MATHEMATICS

We will also be assessing your child in terms of their counting and shape awareness. Point out shapes in the environment. Ask your child about shapes in your home. What shape is a plate or cereal box? Can you find me.....something that is square or circular? To extend the activity



talk about the properties of the shapes. How many sides and corners do shapes have? Can you find me a shape with three sides or one side?

5) **Weekly Newsletters**

Each week you will receive a weekly newsletter that will outline what our children have been interested in that week and what we are learning, with suggestions for how you can support and extend their learning at home! Please let us know if your child develops any particular interests and we can use these to develop learning in school too! These newsletters will be put on the Early Years section of our school website so that you can access them at home if needed.

www.northwoodcommunityprimaryschool.co.uk

Click on About Us and then Curriculum on the left hand menu, then scroll down to the bottom and click on Early Years Foundation (Nursery & Reception).

6) **PICKING UP TIME**

- Please do not send strangers or children to pick up your child. **Always let us know** if someone new is coming to pick up your child.
- Please **be aware of times** – staff have lots of after school responsibilities and if you are late these are compromised.
- Please **line up and wait** for your child to be released to you. Some children are frightened if they see a large, noisy crowd.
- If you want to speak to the member of staff on the door you have to **wait until the children are gone**. We cannot compromise the safety of our children by being distracted whilst the doors are open.

We hope that you find the tips and advice in here useful. If you have any doubts, questions or concerns please come and talk to us. We want you to feel comfortable and secure so that we can work together to make sure that your child gets the best possible start in their education.

Thank you very much for your support, we look forward to working with you and your child!

Mrs Hyland (Class Teacher/Foundation Stage Lead)

Ms Speers, Miss Glascott, Mrs D'Arcy & Mr Harrison (Teaching Assistants)