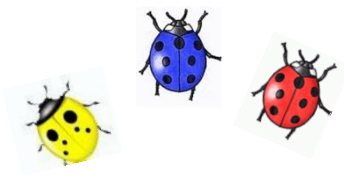




# Ladybirds Newsletter

## September 2018



Dear Parents and Carers,

A very warm welcome to Ladybirds!

As you know, we have been busy over the last couple of weeks with Home Visits and welcoming your child at school. We have thoroughly enjoyed the Home Visits and seeing you and your children again, catching up on what you have been up to during the holidays and getting to know you better. Building positive relationships with you all is really important to us and we hope you have enjoyed the visits as much as we have.

We have also been working together to re-organise the classrooms, ready to welcome your children into a bright, stimulating, accessible and organised learning environment where they can happily explore, investigate, make choices and develop new friendships. You will notice some of the changes and we look forward to welcoming you into the classrooms and showing you around.

Despite being very early days we are delighted with the way the children are beginning to settle into the routines of school life at Dovers Green. They are enjoying exploring our Early Year's environment, both indoors and outdoors, and developing relationships with adults and children. We have included photographs of all the staff in Ladybirds to help you and your children become more familiar with us.

### Blue Ladybirds



Miss Lucy Turner  
EYFS Leader/Teacher



Mrs Georgina Wield  
Teaching Assistant



Miss Alison Marsh  
Teaching Assistant



Mrs Gilleon Rabey  
Teaching Assistant



Mrs Rachel Thomas  
Trainee Teacher

### Yellow Ladybirds



Mrs Stephanie Hughes  
Teacher



Miss Becky Thompson  
Teaching Assistant



Mrs Mel Crockett  
Teaching Assistant



Mrs Dawn Tunstill  
Teaching Assistant



Mrs Aiko Brown  
Teaching Assistant

### Ladybirds Support

### Red Ladybirds



Mrs Emily Brown  
Teacher



Miss Lauren Payne  
Teacher



Mrs Lisa Brewis  
Teaching Assistant



Mrs Anna Potter  
Teaching Assistant

This half term we will be focusing on, 'All About Me!' Each week the children will have opportunities to work on a range of structured activities. Some activities will encourage the children to work independently and explore and investigate within the Foundation Stage curriculum, whilst other activities will be focused with a teacher or Teaching Assistant. Staff will be working with children to encourage them to explore all of the learning areas in the different classrooms and outside areas. As a starter to this focus we would appreciate the children bringing in a photograph of themselves with their families. Please could you do this by putting one in their book bags for us to collect as soon as possible? A Topic Web will be sent home soon to let you know what the focuses will be for the children's learning over their second term at school.

During the week beginning Monday 1 October 2018 and during this week we will be sending home reading books for your children to share with you. The children will be given a reading book that has been selected by the class teacher and is appropriate for their level of development. Initially, for most children this will be a picture book but within a short time we will be sending home books that include text. The purpose of this is to encourage the children to recognise the difference between print and pictures, to know that in English we read from left to right and to be able to talk about what is happening in the story. They are not expected to read the text in the early days but can be encouraged to look for sounds and letters and simple words they have learnt. In addition to your child's reading book they will receive a list of Wordbox words (when they are ready). These are a list of simple words the children can practise to sound out and blend and when we feel your child is reading the list confidently we will send the next Wordbox home. We truly value your help and would encourage you to choose a quiet moment each day to share your child's reading book with them, which will help to reinforce their learning at school and set them on the road to a lifelong love of reading. Please write in your child's Reading Record when you do read together at home. The children also have regular opportunities to visit and borrow books from the School Library and have an allocated time each week to change their library books with their class. You are welcome to come in after school to change library books more frequently if you wish.

We will also be introducing phonics during the same week and the children will be learning four sounds per week. They will bring home an activity linked to the new sound on the day they are taught it, that provides them with an opportunity to practise writing the sound. At the end of each week they will bring home a handwriting sheet as an opportunity to practise recognising and writing the sounds again. The children usually love to share the Jolly Phonic songs and actions with you so please do encourage your child at home by practising the letter sounds and actions with them. Each child will also be given a set of Ladybird words. These are words the children are expected to be able to read and write by the end of their reception year. The children will learn up to seven sets of Ladybird words throughout the year which they will work on at their own pace. When the class teacher feels they can read and write these words confidently and independently, we will send the next set of words home. We encourage you to practise reading and writing these words at home as much as possible and please write in your child's Reading Record when you have done this.

All Ladybird classes have timetabled slots for PE: Games, Gymnastics and Dance, Forest School and the Library. The days for these are displayed on the classroom doors. Please ensure that your child has their named PE kit in school every Monday. Kits will be sent home every Friday to be washed. ***Please also remember that the children are not allowed to wear any earrings or jewellery on PE days.***

This year each Ladybird class has a class 'Mascot'. The mascot will be sent home on a Friday with a child that has done something to make their class teacher proud during that week. We would like a little bit of information written, drawings or photographs put into the mascot diary about the adventures they have been up to. We ask for the mascot to be returned to school on the Monday after the weekend, ready for the chosen Ladybird to share the exciting adventures they have been on. Please be aware with GDPR regulations that these books and any photographs will be shared with the class.

If you require more information about the curriculum or how it is taught, we will be happy to answer any questions. Please feel free to request an informal chat after school. We do run a curriculum evening just for Early years parents so we can explain the curriculum in more detail and there is a chance for you to come into the classes and experience the activities your children complete to support their learning. This year this evening will be on Tuesday 13 November from 7:00-8:30 with doors opening at 6:30 for coffee. Finally, we are looking forward to receiving the children's 'WOW' slips to celebrate any 'wow' moments that happen outside school. Do ask for more if you need them.

Thank you for your support,  
Early Years Team 😊

