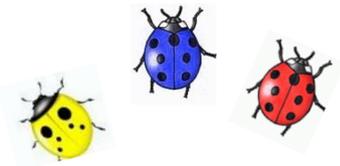




Ladybirds Newsletter

Autumn Term 2021



Dear Parents and Carers,

A very warm welcome to Ladybirds!

We were so pleased to be able to go ahead with the home visits at the beginning of the term, and we have thoroughly enjoyed seeing you and your children again, as they start school. Building positive relationships with you all is really important to us and we look forward to getting to know you better over the coming weeks.

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 Years environment, both indoors and outdoors, and developing relationships with adults and children. We have included photographs of all of the staff in Ladybirds to help you and your children become more familiar with us.

Blue Ladybirds



Mrs Caroline McHugh
EYFS Leader/Teacher



Mrs Hannah Chandler
Class Teacher



Mrs Mel Crockett
Teaching Assistant



Mrs Dawn Tunstall
Teaching Assistant



Mrs Giuliana Jervis
Teaching Assistant

Yellow Ladybirds



Mrs Rachel Thomas
Class Teacher



Mrs Donna Eatenton
Teaching Assistant

Further support across the year group



Miss Jess Andres
Teaching Assistant



Miss Katharine Perry
Teaching Assistant

Red Ladybirds



Mrs Lucy Richens
Class Teacher



Mrs Anna Roberson
Class Teacher



Mrs Georgina Wield
Teaching Assistant

New Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Framework

As you may already be aware, the Department for Education (DfE) have introduced a new EYFS framework, which began in September 2021. Dovers Green became an early adopter of these changes in the last academic year, which means we have the advantage of already being familiar with the revised framework.

What does this mean for your child?

Your child will follow the updated EYFS framework and will work towards the final assessment at the end of the Reception year, using the new ELGs (Early Learning Goals). These goals are short statements that teachers assess your child against at the end of the year. As part of the changes to the new framework, it also means that there is less emphasis on recording paperwork, meaning we, as adults, can spend more time with your child getting to know them and having those quality interactions. The new framework is also more aligned with the Key Stage One curriculum (year one and year two), further ensuring that your child's educational journey from reception to year one is building upon previous knowledge. If you would like to find out more, please follow this link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-years-foundation-stage-framework--2>. We will also be holding an afternoon meeting for parents on **Monday 18th October at 2.30pm**, to share more information about the new framework.

Reception Baseline Assessment

The DfE have also introduced a new baseline assessment this year, which is a short, interactive and practical assessment of your child's early literacy, communication, language and mathematics skills. It is a statutory assessment that takes place in the first six weeks of school. The assessment will be undertaken with your child's class teacher and it will measure your child's progress from reception to year 6. The data generated from this assessment will only be accessed by the DfE and the information gathered will support us to plan the appropriate next steps in learning for your children. If you would like to find out more about the Reception Baseline Assessment (RBA), please follow this useful link for parents:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/reception-baseline-assessment-information-for-parents>

Seesaw

'Seesaw' is our remote learning platform at Dovers Green and in the Early Years, we mainly use this platform to send you daily messages to inform you about all the wonderful and exciting learning that has taken place during the day! Attached to this newsletter, there are some instructions and a QR code, which details how to sign up for this app. If you have any problems with signing up for Seesaw, please come and talk to us!

Learning in the Early Years

Play underpins learning in the Early Years and all aspects of the children's development. It gives the children opportunities to explore and discover their immediate world, they can practise new ideas and skills, they learn to take risks, show their imaginations and solve problems on their own or with others. They really can learn anything through play! At Dovers Green, we have decided that the right blend of learning for the children is a mixture of independent learning or 'play' and adult led 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 the children to encourage them to explore all of the learning areas in the different classrooms and outside areas.

This half term, our topic is called '**All About Me!**' and as a starter to this topic, we would appreciate the children bringing in a photograph of themselves with their families. Please could you put this photo in their book bags for us to collect as soon as possible. Thank you!

Reading

On Monday 11th October, 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. The children will also be given a book that they have chosen from our class book corner and once we have started to teach phonic sessions, the children will also be given a book which matches their phonic ability.

Books will be changed once a week on a **MONDAY**. Please make sure that all reading books are in your child's bookbag every day.

When your child is ready, they will also receive a list of 'wordbox' words, in addition to their reading book. These are a list of simple words, which the children can sound out and blend together and when we feel that your child is reading the list confidently, we will send the next 'wordbox' home.

When they are ready, they will also receive 'Ladybird' words. These are tricky high frequency words, which cannot be sounded out, such as 'he', 'the' and 'said'. When the children can read these words confidently, we will send home the next set of 'Ladybird' words.

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 diary when you do read together at home. (Reading diaries will be given out on Monday 11th October, along with the reading books.)

Later on this half term, we will be introducing phonics sessions into our school day. At Dovers Green, we teach phonics using the Read, Write, Inc scheme and the children love sharing the rhymes which are linked to the reading and writing of each sound. Please encourage your child at home by practising the letter sounds with them. We will let you know which sounds they are learning, through the 'Seesaw' App.

PE lessons

All Ladybird classes will have a PE lesson on a Monday morning and these lessons will start during the week beginning Monday 4th October. Please make sure that named PE kits are in school by this date, and that they remain in school at all times. PE kits will be sent home at the end of each half term to be washed. ***Please also remember that the children are not allowed to wear any earrings or jewellery on PE days.***

Forest School

Exciting news - Forest School sessions will start after half term! **Please could you provide waterproof trousers, a waterproof jacket, and a pair of wellies for your child.** It would really help us, if you could show your child what you are providing for them, so that they are familiar with these clothes, before they have to change into them independently at school. Thank you! As with everything, please make sure all clothes are clearly named. Unless the clothes are absolutely filthy, we will keep them in school and send them home every half term. If you have any difficulty in providing these clothes for your child, please speak to the class teacher.

Forest School sessions will be the following times:

Blue Ladybirds - Tuesday morning

Red Ladybirds - Thursday morning

Yellow Ladybirds - Friday morning

The days for both PE and Forest School will be displayed on the classroom doors, as a reminder!

Junk Modelling Materials

In each classroom, we have a workshop/junk modelling table, where the children have started to enjoy planning and making some wonderful creations! We are always in need of 'junk' materials including cardboard boxes, plastic trays, cardboard rolls and yoghurt pots, as well as smaller items such as buttons, milk bottle lids, corks, scraps of fabric etc. If you are able to donate any of these items, please pass them to a member of the team. Thank you!

Finally, we are looking forward to receiving the children's 'WOW' slips to celebrate any 'WOW' moments that happen outside school. Please ask for more slips if you need them.

Thank you for taking the time to read (and hopefully digest!) this huge amount of information! Please come and speak to your child's class teacher, if you have any questions at all!

Thank you for your support,

Caroline McHugh & The Early Years Team

