

## Autumn 2021 Curriculum Newsletter

### Bumblebee Class

As our new term starts, I would like to welcome you to Bumblebee class, introduce the people who will be teaching and caring for your child and explain a little about what we will be learning this term.

#### **Staffing**

The staff in Bumblebee Class are:-

Harriet Craven – Teacher  
Anna Wood – Teaching Assistant  
Marcia Cave – Teaching Assistant  
Jo Hipkiss – Teaching Assistant  
Chloe Dodd – Teaching Assistant

We also have our SEN support worker Leanne Knight who helps us at lunchtimes, play times and with personal care. For the first two weeks, she is also supporting us during the afternoon.

#### **Learning and development**

The learning and development in Bumblebee class is based around the Learning to Play curriculum at Old Park. This focuses on the following areas of learning and development: My Communication, My Thinking, My Well-being, My Body and My World alongside a focus on learning to play and to settle into the school environment and expectations. This incorporates a wide variety of activities including those linked to Early English, Maths, Computing, Science, Cooking, PSHE, PE and Phonic awareness. We may also enjoy activities each week such as Sensology, Attention Autism, Social and Musical Interaction and Creative and Forest School sessions.

You can find out more information about this by asking to talk to a member of school staff about how it is delivered in our class.

We also work on your child's EHCP targets and any targets set by professionals that work with your child e.g. Speech and Language, Physiotherapists and OT.

Each day is structured so that we have set daily routines, play and both adult-led and child-initiated activities.

## Focus for this term

Our whole school theme for this term is **Time Travellers**. We will be using events in history including the Great Fire of London and the Gun Powder Plot as inspiration for some of our activities.

In Early English we will be reading the 'Gingerbread Man' and 'How to Wash a Woolly Mammoth' stories, as well as learning about different action rhymes and poems which will include Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes and Wheels on the Bus. These link to the Early English areas of learning: Traditional Tales, Instructions: How To... personal care routines and Action rhymes and poems. We will work on book handling skills as well as developing our skills in listening, attention and exploring objects related to the books. In Early Maths we will be focusing on the concepts of Number (Place Value – counting, recognition, representing and properties), Length and Height, More and Less and Money. We will do this incidentally throughout the school day and during lessons using number songs as inspiration and through practical exploration of real world objects and toys. We will be learning about 'Animals, Plants and the Environment' in Early Science. We will explore animals which are dead and alive such as playing with and learning about dinosaurs, alongside jungle, sea and polar animals. In our Phonics Awareness sessions we will be exploring SATPIN sounds, as well as focusing on developing Letters and Sounds Aspect 1 skills. Phoebe Taylor-Hodgetts HLTA will be teaching the Early PSHE sessions each week on a Wednesday afternoon during Harriet's planning time. This session will focus on identifying and expressing feelings using The Colour Monster story to explore emotions. Children will also practise their turn taking using different games such as Pop up Pirate with their teachers and peers. In our Creative sessions we will be trying some early art experiences linked to the theme such as painting a bonfire picture and making a junk model street. We will also be experiencing some food technology linked to our theme of Time Travellers e.g. making some breadstick sparklers.

Your child will have the opportunity to participate in a range of play and adult-led activities linked to our theme such as imaginative play with characters from the stories, water play, animal stories and books, animal puppets, role play in a kitchen, animal and number songs and rhymes, mark making, play dough, inset puzzles and jigsaws, sorting, counting, creative activities, cooking, computer activities, using the interactive whiteboard, iPad and digital camera, outdoor play and much more. We are a very busy class and developing your child's communication is at the heart of everything we do. Please let us know anything specific you would like your child to work on or any changes or developments your child makes at home and we will try to expand on this at school.

## Our timetable and learning opportunities

### PE

On **Thursday** we will be using the gym or outside for our PE sessions.

Please send in **shorts, a white t-shirt and black pumps** (all labelled with your child's name) for this. We can keep this in school unless it needs a wash.

### Forest school

Bumblebee class will be accessing the outdoor area for a Forest School session **every Monday afternoon**.

Please send your child in to school wearing suitable layers for Forest school such as old joggers and a t-shirt but with appropriate **outdoor clothing to put on for the afternoon** for the session. This will depend on the weather e.g. send wellies, waterproofs, hats, scarves and gloves or sun hats and wearing sun cream etc. Please label everything.

### Soft Play

We will be using Soft Play at school on **Tuesdays** and **Fridays**.

### Rebound

Your child may have the opportunity to experience Rebound sessions on the trampoline during the term (depending on the Covid risk assessment). We may also use a smaller trampette.

### Other Specialist Rooms / Areas

As a class, we may also have the opportunity to visit and use the facilities in different areas of our school including the library, music room, computer room and sensory room but some of these are sometimes restricted due to Covid-19.

## Working with school

### Home-school sheet

The home-school sheet given to your child each day is the main source of communication between home and school so if you have anything to share with us or ask please write it on this sheet for us to read each morning. We will write daily about activities we do in school, particular achievements, how your child has been throughout the day, what has happened regarding personal care and lunch etc. If you require any particular information please ask.

We look forward to sharing all of our news with you. If you have any news from home or information you need to share we would love to hear from you! Please feel free to write to us as much as you want. You can also email [Tbumblebee@old-park.dudley.sch.uk](mailto:Tbumblebee@old-park.dudley.sch.uk). This is checked often but not at a specific time each day so please contact the school office to prompt us if your enquiry is urgent.

### **Additional information**

#### Snack time

Please feel free to send in healthy snack items for your child such as fruit or yoghurt etc. Milk and water will be provided by the school. Healthy eating and children's dietary needs are always considered. Please make sure that any bottles, lunch bags or containers are clearly marked with your child's name.

#### Spare clothes

Please send in a change of clothes for your child in case they are required throughout the day. This does not have to be uniform but please include tops, trousers/skirts, underwear and socks as we often need a change of clothes due to water/messy play and accidents while learning to drink from a cup. Please label everything clearly. Even with our small class size, it is very difficult to identify which clothes or items belong to which pupil.

Please send in a pair of **wellington boots** for your child to keep in school and a hat and gloves during the winter months. Our playground has a lot of puddles which they all enjoy exploring!

We look forward to working with you and seeing your child develop and progress.

Harriet Craven

## Weekly routine

Please keep this page handy so that you know what items need to be sent in on specific days.

<b>Every day</b>		Healthy snack Home-school diary sheet Coat (we go outside in most weathers!) Water bottle where required
<b>To keep in school</b>		Pads/underwear where needed Spare clothes Medication where required Suncream PE kit
<b>Every Monday</b>	Forest School in the afternoon	No uniform required. Please send your child wearing suitable outdoor wear e.g. an old t-shirt and joggers (no shorts due to plants - legs must be covered) with a bag containing extra layers and accessories appropriate for the weather. We will then support your child to put these on ready for the afternoon session in the Forest e.g. wellies, waterproofs, hats, scarves, gloves, sun hats.  A bag containing spare clothes for wearing after Forest school if needed.
<b>Every Thursday</b>	PE	Shorts, white t-shirt and black pumps  (We will support your child to change into this in school)