

Ladybirds Class

Important information



Autumn term themes: Amazing Me! then Colours

We will focus on learning about ourselves, our families and about each other for this half term. Then, after half term, our focus will be on colours in the world around us, mixing colours, stories with a colour theme, Diwali and Christmas

Dear parents/carers,

All the children in Ladybirds have settled so well into school with lots of fun learning and play. On a Wednesday afternoon, Mrs Bywater is busy planning, preparing and assessing so the Ladybirds are taught by Miss Hancox. Miss Davies, Miss Wade and Mrs Scott also help us in class and around the school.

Overview:

Please find enclosed information regarding topics and learning. The themes for this term are 'Amazing Me!' and 'Colours'. On the overview, you will see the theme that your child will be working on, and the other curriculum areas which will also be covered. Communication is very important between home and school, and at Stepgates Community School we want you to be fully informed. You can do this through Tapestry online learning journal, email, and phone or face-to-face should you need to. Tapestry accounts are now set up and running - if you haven't already, please do activate your account to see what your little Ladybird has been up to whilst at school.

Home Learning:

Home learning suggestions will be given each week on a Thursday, via the Ladybird class newsletter. These are not compulsory but follow on from what we have been learning in class in regards to number and phonics. We request that you help support your child to help underpin their learning. Evidence can be sent on Tapestry, although lots of the activities will be play or discussion led. You can share an experience on Tapestry e.g. riding a bike without stabilisers. Children love to share these experiences as a 'show and tell' activity. Every Monday the children will be given a reading book to practise at home. These initially will have no words, just pictures, to encourage imaginative storytelling, until we feel your child is ready to start reading. Every child develops at a different pace. Please read with your child a minimum of 4 times a week and comment and sign the reading record so we know you have read with your child. Children will have a 'caterpillar' word and sound book to practise. This intervention boosts your child's reading ability. We will test your child on these sounds once a week. Please keep your child's reading record, reading book and caterpillar word book in your child's bag at all times.

School Uniform:

Please ensure that your child is wearing the correct school uniform. On Tuesdays, children need to wear to school their PE kit (red t-shirt, black shorts, red sweatshirt and black tracksuit trousers) for PE sessions which will take place in the afternoon. They will not require to wear uniform on this day. **Children are not permitted to wear earrings in PE lessons**, so earrings should be removed at home. **PLEASE MAKE SURE ALL UNIFORM IS LABELLED INCLUDING SHOES and P.E. KIT.**

Water Bottles: Please ensure your child brings in a **named** water bottle, that they recognise and open, so that they can help themselves to a drink when needed. **Water only please.** Children take their water bottle home every day to be washed and refilled. Children are welcome to bring a fruit/vegetable snack or two, although the council will supply free fruit. Milk bar is open at 10am every day

We have high expectations of the children in Ladybirds and wish to celebrate their success. Your child and the class will be rewarded with stickers (for their individual sticker chart), certificates and raffle tickets and gems (whole class reward). These rewards will be given for effort, kindness, politeness and good behaviour and we know that you will enjoy sharing their achievements. We also send home 'proud clouds' which are notelets that can be completed at home and shared in class e.g. 'We are proud of Frank today as he got dressed all by himself'. These are displayed on our proud cloud wall. If you have any questions, then please contact me during work hours using the email below.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs. Bywater

mrsbywater@stepgates.surrey.sch.uk

Ladybirds Weekly Overview

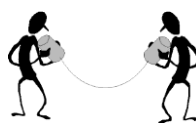
Autumn Term

'Amazing Me!' and 'Colours'



Personal, Social and Emotional Development

- making friends
- learning rules and routines
- rewards - stickers on individual reward charts, whole class rewards = gems in the jar, whole school rewards = raffle tickets with a chance to win a prize.



Communication and Language

- talking about ourselves and our families
- What do we look like and how do we feel?
- learning to sit and listen
- role play
- telling stories using pictures
- talking partners



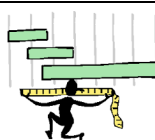
Physical Development

- washing our hands thoroughly
- gross and fine motor skill development
- finger strengthening exercises and pencil control
- PE - Sessions on a Tuesday. Wear PE instead of uniform on this day.
- Daily playground sessions



Literacy

- name writing
- weekly rhymes
- daily phonics and literacy
- reading - individual/group, caterpillar words
- choosing a story to read at the end of the day
- mark making/early writing



Mathematics

- understanding, counting and singing with numbers
- sorting
- comparing groups
- puzzles and construction
- shapes

Understanding the World



- talking about ourselves, our families and our homes - similarities and differences
- Seasons: Autumn
- Harvest Festival
- Diwali
- Christmas



Expressive Arts and Design

- music sessions
- role play
- arts and crafts
- self portraits



Outdoor learning

- developing social skills
- building confidence
- teamwork
- risk taking
- exploring

Other things you could do/ places to visit:

- explore the outdoors with your senses - a walk in the woods or by the river
- notice seasonal changes
- talk to friends who have started at other schools - what experiences are the same/different?