



WHITEHORSE MANOR INFANT SCHOOL
WILLOW CLASS NEWSLETTER

September 2014

Dear parents/carers,

Every half term we like to write to you to keep you informed about what your child will be learning about and to make you aware of any important upcoming events. Our topic this half term is 'Ourselves'. We will be spending a lot of time getting to know new friends in our class and learning about all of the people who work with us in our school and help to keep us safe. As part of our topic, we will be looking at babies and the way that we have changed over the years. In order to help us with this, we would like each child to bring in a photograph of themselves as a baby (with their name on the back). The photos will be returned to you at the end of our topic.

In literacy we will be learning letter names and Jolly Phonic's sounds and actions. The children will be practising name writing and letter formation. As an introduction to reading we will be taking part in '**The Rhyme Challenge**' which will involve sharing and learning rhymes with family and friends. The rhymes we will be learning together include, *Wind The Bobbin Up, Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes, Five Little Ducks, Hickory Dickory Dock, Hey Diddle, Diddle, Miss Polly Had a Dolly, Diddle, Diddle Dumpling and See The Little Rabbits Sleeping*. This is a fun activity and on completion of the challenge your child will be awarded a special certificate to celebrate their achievement. Don't worry if you have forgotten the words we have attached them to this newsletter!

In mathematics we will be learning to count, recognise and write numbers to ten, then twenty. We will be doing this in a very practical way by learning number songs and counting small objects. We will be investigating shape in the environment and learning about some of their properties such as the number of sides and corners they have. The children will be learning how to compare numbers and begin to use vocabulary such as 'more' and 'less'.

In understanding the world we will be observing the world around us and asking questions about why things happen and how things work. We will be exploring the school to find our way around and recognise key areas such as the hall and office. We will also be thinking about the change in the seasons.

In expressive arts and design we will be listening to music and exploring how to make different sounds with instruments. We will be experimenting with colour mixing and manipulating malleable materials such as play dough and plasticine. We will also be investigating texture in the natural world by going on a texture hunt and making rubbings of what we find.

In physical development we will be responding to music by moving in appropriate ways and learning how to negotiate space and objects around us. We will be encouraging the children to dress and undress independently, please help your child at home with this. The children will have daily practice with pencil control and will learn how to use a variety of equipment and tools safely such as scissors and hole punchers.

In order for your child to go home with their personal belongings please can you ensure that all items of clothing and equipment, such as book bags and packed lunch boxes, are clearly labelled. It is important that your child has a PE kit in school. This should consist of a white t-shirt, black shorts and plimsolls, all should be labelled. Willow Class has PE on Thursday.

Key dates – more details to follow

Friday 26th September Macmillan Coffee Morning – 11am to 12pm
Wednesday 8th October Parents Curriculum Meeting 9:15am to 10am
Monday 3rd November–Willow Class trip to Build A Bear, Croydon
Thursday 23rd October Black History Family Celebration 6:30pm to 8pm

Thank you for your continued support.

Tanya Headley
Willow Class