

# Early Years Autumn News Letter 2022

We would like to welcome you all to Otford Primary School. We look forward to working with you in partnership to help your child develop and take flight during their time with us in their first year in school.

Our topic this term is *Me and My Community*. This topic aims to ensure the children develop a sense of self, confidence and a sense of belonging to their school and wider community. The children will be sharing memorable experiences, who their family members are, exploring local heroes such as police, fire brigade, doctors, air ambulance, RNLI etc. . We hope to invite some real life superhero's into school for the children to meet and learn about their role in our local community. In addition to this they will learn about their five senses and develop an understanding how they are different to each other. Within Early Years, we have introduced more role play areas and extended our outdoor play areas to give the children more opportunity for exploring and learning through play and personal experiences. We aim to start teaching daily phonics, maths, reading and writing lessons once we have completed the baseline assessments.

## Reading and Phonics

We teach daily phonic sessions where the children will learn a new letter each day; tricky words; how to blend and segment when reading and writing, through games and computer activities. We also give every child their own phonics folder which contains targeted sounds and tricky words. This folder will come home weekly for you to work with your child on. Our main reading scheme is Bug Club where the books are tailored to the sounds that your child is learning. Your child will receive two new books once a week as well. You will receive a password for Bug Club in your child's reading record, which you can use to access online books and games to practice reading at home with you. The children will also choose a new library book each week to share with you.

## Maths

Numbers are all around children so they see number as part of their everyday lives. We teach children how to recognise and count numbers using our school environment. We take the children on an Autumn number walk around the school where they count and collect different amounts of natural resources. Children will also be focussing on different ways to represent and make numbers. In addition Shape, Space and Measure is taught through real life learning such as building, cooking and role play where children develop questioning and problem solving skills.

## Introducing the Early Years Curriculum.

Here at Otford we promote independence from day one. We encourage the children to develop their organisational skills and follow daily routines. In Early Years, we value learning through play where all children will engage in 'Continuous Provision' (Child-led play). They will develop the skills required in the Early Years Curriculum as follows

### Dates for your Diary

**Phonics Workshop: Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> September at 9.10am**

We will host a phonics workshop for you to come and see how we teach phonics in school and how you can help your child at home.

**Harvest Festival Date TBC**

**Diwali The Festival of Lights: Thursday 20th October**

The children will learn all about this festival and experience a different culture where they will dance to traditional Indian music and try some Indian food.