

Dear Parents,

As this is the first Foundation Stage newsletter I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you once again to Sunshine Class. It has been lovely to get to know your children and I am pleased to let you know that as a whole class, they are settling in wonderfully well to school life here at Charter.



We have enjoyed carrying out some 'getting to know you activities'. These have included circle time games, practicing routine by singing songs such as 'Everybody line up' and 'We are in a circle.' These songs are helping the children follow instructions and our lining up is becoming straighter and less wiggly.

As you will already be aware, we are an Outdoor Learning school and try and go outside to learn come rain or shine! Please make sure your child has wellies and a coat in school even if rain looks unlikely as you will be surprised how many muddy puddles or areas a 4 or 5 year old can find!



In the classroom, the children have access to different activities that encourage a range of skills. These include; social, communication, fine motor, imagination, creative, exploration and investigation. Observing the children take part in these activities gives us a picture of how confident the children are in specific areas. It also shows what areas children need to develop, therefore helping me plan activities and opportunities for them to master these skills.



Play opportunities will also be based around a theme or a particular book. We have been some popular traditional nursery rhymes and the children are really enjoying joining in with them. These nursery rhymes have formed our learning group names and themes for some of our creative activities throughout the week. Keep an eye on the window from next week for a learning theme overview that will let you know what play opportunities are being provided. If you would like a copy, please come and see us and I shall send one home in your child's reading folder.



As the children are becoming more confident to talk about the books that are being sent home, we will begin to move on to books with words. Helping your child follow the text with their finger as you read each word with them will help them along the way. Please look at them with your children at least 5 times during the week and we will change them when necessary. These early stages of reading are crucial for reading development. The more they can talk about a book, the more confident they become. Don't forget to write in your child's yellow reading record every time you read together at home. Please include comments about home books you read together such as bed time stories because it is always lovely for us to be able to chat to your child about a range of stories they know. We endeavour to make sure your child is read with us at least twice a week in school so we can celebrate their progress. As well as reading books, your child will also be given sounds books and a key words practice card. Please look through these and practise them with your child. It is important that they learn to recognise these key words by sight as they are not always words that they can sound out. The sounds that we learn in class will go up on the tree located outside the Sunshine Classroom door to the playground and you can then encourage your child to recognise these sounds at home or when you are out and about.

On the tables in the mornings there will be activities to support your child to draw certain things, write their name, form letters and numbers correctly. Please feel free to see what your child is up to in the morning when you drop them off and you are more than welcome to stay for a short while and either do an activity together or watch your child show off their ever increasing independence.

I would like to make you aware of our 'Behaviour Chart' we have in Sunshine class. We all start every day on the happy sun. The children are encouraged to not go on the sad cloud but aim to reach the Rainbow by being helpful, kind, caring and trying hard. Please encourage your child at home to aim for that rainbow and praise them for being on the Sunshine.



In addition to the fruit provided in the morning, please feel free to send your child with another snack for the afternoon as the children are now full time. This can be either vegetable or fruit pieces or yoghurt tubes. If you have any queries regarding this please come and see us. As you know, toast is available for 50p a week. This needs to be paid in class on Monday mornings. You are more than welcome to pay for weeks in advance if you would like.



We would like to invite you to Family Friday's. These are short morning sessions that will be held every fortnight. It will be a time for you to have a look through your child's learning journey, carry out creative activities with your child and just get involved in school life. These sessions begin at 8:50 and finish at approximately 9:30. A notice will go up on the window/door in advance for you to sign up just so I have an idea of numbers before-hand. The first one will be held on Friday 5th October and will be an arty autumn activity.

A little reminder to all who come into Sunshine Class to make sure the door is closed behind you as you enter and leave, particularly in the mornings. The outdoor area is an area where our children like to play but the children must remain in class carrying out some challenges at tables first until parents have left and the gates are locked. Keeping the door closed will just remind the children of that too.

Learning Journeys are books that you will receive at the end of your child's year in Sunshine Class. They are a document of all your child's successes and milestones that they have reached. We record these successes in the form of pictures, quotes from your child and observations from adults. No one knows your child better than you so I welcome and encourage anything that you see your child do at home, on holiday or in the evening. These successes can be anything from riding a bike, sharing with a sibling, using a new word or even conquering a fear! Please record them on WOW slips that are included with this letter and we will stick them in your child's learning journey when handed to us. Feel free to send photographs in to go with your comments. For those of you who would like to use email, you can email these pics and comments for us to print at school using the email address below.

eyfs@charter.wilts.sch.uk *This email will be checked regularly.*

The relationship between school and our families is key to your child's education and wellbeing at school so please do not hesitate to come in and see me if you have any questions or queries no matter how big or small they may seem. I know it may seem a little manic and busy at the start and end of the day but I will make time for all of you. I really am looking forward to a fun-filled, action packed year ahead with you and your little ones.

Kind regards

Mrs Adams