



St Martin's C of E Primary and Nursery School

Younghayes Road, Cranbrook, EX5 7DT
Tel: 01404 515409 Email: admin@stmartinscranbrook.devon.sch.uk

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, we would like to welcome you all to Little Parrots. We have had a lovely first couple of days with the children and look forward to many more to come. Mrs Turner will be leading our carpet games and stories, supported by Mrs Payne and Mrs Mitchell. Our meal time assistant is Miss Mozzie.

The school day

The main school gates open at 8:20am and the nursery classroom door will open at 8:30am ready to welcome the children who are starting their session at 8:30am. The door will re-open again for those starting at 9am. Children arriving late will need to sign in at the school office.

Learning Narrative

How are you feeling today?



This term, we will be sharing lots of stories to enable us to explore various topics including; our emotions, how we have changed since we were a baby, and pre-historic animals such as woolly mammoths. We will also be exploring the season of Autumn, the story of The Gingerbread Man, and Christmas time. We are hoping to continue our annual trip to Cotley Farm to see the reindeers.



Home Learning Reading

Once the children have settled, we will begin running our Little Parrots library. The children will all be given a named bookmark and each week they will be invited to choose a book from our library for them to take home and enjoy sharing regularly with you. We ask that you read the same book to them throughout the week so that they become really familiar with it and can recall events that happen in the story. Once you have enjoyed the book for a week, please return it to our library book basket (this will be a yellow basket outside the main door of the classroom) at the beginning of the day. We will then ask your child to tell us about the story and who they shared it with, before then giving them the chance to choose a new book. When they have read 10 books we will award them with a certificate.



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Maths

In maths we will be focusing on developing the children's number sense by embedding lots of the key maths skills and tools in their daily routines (e.g. the use of five frames on the drinks trolley and for story voting, the use of a monthly calendar and yearly cyclical calendar, and singing lots of counting songs). We will be doing a lot of noticing and using our natural subitising skills to identify amounts to 3, looking at the parts within the whole, e.g. "I can see '2' and '1'." We will be encouraging the children to show quantities on their fingers and to identify more than and less/fewer than when comparing amounts. We will be playing lots of games and exploring shape - looking for patterns and using our developing noticing skills to compare their properties.



It would be great if you could support your child with developing these early mathematical skills by playing noticing games with them involving identifying amounts to 3 within larger amounts.



Forest school

Forest will be on a Thursday morning each week. We will begin our forest sessions on Thursday 18th September. Children need to come to school wearing their forest clothes (long sleeved top and trousers). Please make sure that they also come to school with a suitable waterproof coat, waterproof trousers and wellies in a named carrier bag. Please also provide a fruit snack in a named pot/bag on a forest morning. The children will need to be dropped off at the classroom as usual on forest session days.

Belongings & Uniform

Please ensure that all personal items are labelled clearly. Even with the best intentions, children do lose things - having them named means that items can find their way back to the correct owner.

Questions/Queries

At St. Martins we have an open-door policy so staff will be at their doors at the beginning and end of each day to answer any quick questions. If you have any queries that need to be discussed in more depth please contact the school admin team via School Spider and address your message 'for the attention of Mrs Turner.'

We look forward to a successful and happy year.

Mrs Turner and the Little Parrots team :)