



# Charlton Kings Infants' School

Lyefield Road East, Charlton Kings, Cheltenham, GL53 8AY

Telephone: (01242) 514483

Head teacher: Katie James BA (Hons) QTS

Dear Parents,

21<sup>st</sup> May 2019

The whole team enjoyed meeting you all at parents evening to discuss your child's progress, it was lovely sharing the progress made and to hear the positive feedback about how happy your children are. Feeling safe, secure and happy is fundamental and supports your child to learn successfully. The staff and I are proud to have played a role in laying secure foundations for your child's future learning and development. I am sure their enthusiasm and zest for learning will continue into their forthcoming school years!

## What we have been learning...



Currently some of the children have been showing a strong interest in constructing roads, motorways and bridges for their vehicles. This independent play has involved lots of concentration, perseverance, collaboration and critical thinking as the children worked out how to balance and build with the open ended resources.

Lots of interest has also been shown in role-play, in the home corner, dress up and particularly hairdressing. Role-play provides wonderful opportunities for the all-round development of skills across the Foundation Stage Curriculum, including, language and mathematical skills, imaginative and social skills, as well as emotional awareness and opportunities for children to identify with the adult world.

Our story focus for this term has been 'Whatever Next'. The children first listened to the story, then we mapped the story on the wall using pictures. This supported the children to become familiar with the story and to join in with retelling it. The children are becoming aware of how stories are structured and how to describe the setting and who the characters are. Some have learned to recognise the words WOOSH! And BUMP! To further develop the children's understanding of the story, we learned 2 new songs, one about Baby Bear's journey and the children also took on the role of Baby Bear and went to the moon in their 'rocket'.

This term we have also been focusing on the Characteristics of Effective Learning. These characteristics are important in establishing and embedding positive attitudes to learning in young children. During their early years children are naturally inquisitive, intuitive and self-motivated. Providing an effective learning environment with open ended resources cultivates these characteristics and supports the children to learn and develop emotional intelligence. The Characteristics of Effective Learning ultimately enables the children to become critical thinkers, lifelong learners and embrace change, creativity and new ideas.

### **Chick Visit**

The children enjoyed visiting the chicks in the Year 2 building last week. The chicks had just hatched and they were very 'small and fluffy'. The school had acquired the eggs as part of a whole school focus on caring for animals. The kindergarten children were fascinated and enjoyed observing the chicks, they found out that there were 10 chicks in total, 2 females and 8 males. The children were able to spot the differences between them as the female chicks were brown and the males were yellow.



### **Parent Interaction Workshops**



The focus this half term was on physical development. Thank you to all the parents who came to join us for lots of fun outside. Activities included an obstacle course, balancing on stilts and boards, using the rope swing, bouncing on space hoppers, playing football and throwing activities. More photographs can be found on the Kindergarten website.

We will be arranging a parent Pilate's class and a parent reading week next term, a sign-up sheet will go up after the holiday.

### **Lunches**

Changes to the way lunch choices are made will start after the half term. We would like parents to make lunch choices on a daily basis. Lunch choices will be made as you sign in, preferences will be M (meat option), V (vegetarian option), BP (Baked potato) or P (packed lunch).

### **Show and Tell**

After half term, we would like to limit the 'show and tell' toys to just items related to our learning. We would like objects or books relating to summer and insects. Achievement slips, photos from home and interesting items from a trip or visit will of course always be welcomed.

### **Sunny Weather**

As the weather is turning warmer, we would like the children to wear hats when they are outside on sunny days. Please send in a named hat with your child and leave it on their peg. Don't worry if your child forgets their hat we have a supply of spare hats. We also request that parents/carers apply a long lasting sunscreen (lasting at least 6 hours if staying all day) before their child attends Kindergarten.

### **Kindergarten Survey**

A survey has been set up on Survey Monkey in order to gain vital feedback from you as parents. It would be very much appreciated if you could take the time to complete the online survey which can be accessed at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/HTLTP32> the deadline for completing the survey is Friday 7<sup>th</sup> June.

### **Important dates for your diary**

Sports Day is **Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June at 2pm. PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE** - All children are invited to this. An invitation will be sent out shortly with more details.

Children starting school this September will be having a visit to their classes on **Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 10-11am**. If your child will normally be at Kindergarten we will take them to their classes. If they do not normally attend Kindergarten on a Wednesday please take them straight to school.

The school fete will be on **Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July**.

We will be having an end of year celebration for parents and all children on **Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> July at 9.15am** followed by an end of year party (without parents until **11am**). An invitation will be sent out after the half term with more details.

Once again the Kindergarten Team would like to thank you all for your continuing support. We hope you all have a lovely break and look forward to seeing you all on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June.

With best wishes

The Kindergarten Team

