

# Welcome to Foundation Stage



Dear parents/carers,

Welcome back to final half term of the year! We hope you all enjoyed your break and that you are looking forward to the exciting activities planned for this half term. We hope that by working together we can make this term a happy and very productive one for your child, offering them interesting and challenging activities and experiences and ensuring that they make the best possible progress with their learning.

This half term we have started a new topic called '**Amazing Adventures – Under the Sea**'. We have lots of exciting activities planned over the coming term including a trip to the beach and an outdoor parent workshop.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to pop in for a chat and we will be more than happy to speak to you. If you would prefer, an appointment can be made.

Yours sincerely,

**Mrs Hanlon & Miss Holyoak (Teachers)**  
**Miss Davison (Teaching Assistant)**



## Some Important Reminders...



**Attendance and Punctuality.** Please ensure that your child arrives on time for school. The doors open at 9am for a morning/ full day session and our afternoon Nursery session begins at 12.15pm. Good **attendance and punctuality** is important, as it has a direct effect on learning. Children should not take time-off unless absolutely necessary. We are aiming for 98%-100% - please play your part in helping us to meet this ambitious target!

**End of the session.** School finishes at 12pm for morning Nursery and 3.15pm for afternoon/ full day Nursery. All children must be collected by an adult. It is important that you inform us if someone new is collecting your child. If they are unknown to us we may not allow your child to go with them.

**Uniforms and Coats.** We would be grateful if these could be clearly named. Please also ensure your child has a water bottle in school each day. Please ensure children are wearing sun cream on sunny days. Children can also bring in their own labelled sun cream for us to apply at lunchtime.

**School Website and Tapestry journals.** Our website has recently been updated. We have a nursery page where we will regularly put on photos and updates. Please also remember to log in and check your child's Tapestry online learning journal as all observations and photos are posted on there. If you need support accessing the website or Tapestry, please see a member of staff.



### **Outdoor Learning**

We adopt a forest school approach to learning outdoors. We plan a range of activities to engage our children with the natural environment. This term we are exploring mini beasts and our animal small world area. We have daily access to the outdoor area and children can access the outdoors freely. It is important that your child is dressed suitably for the outdoors, as we really do go out in all weather.

***Thank you for your continued support, it really makes a difference!***

**This terms 'Learning Theme' (topic) is 'Under the Sea'** We will be basing our topic on texts such as: Barry the Fish with Fingers and a non fiction book about sharks.

**Literacy.** We will read a variety of topic texts and discussing what is happening and the story characters. We will look at some non fiction texts about sea animals such as sharks to find out some facts. We will read Barry the fish with fingers and discuss what's happening in the story and make predictions about what might happen. We will use a beach trip as a stimulus for some mark making. We will be practising writing for a purpose for example writing shopping lists in the home corner.

**Maths.** We will count the fish/sea animals and we will add and subtract animals and fish too. We will consolidate our number recognition to 5, extending this to 10 when we match the numbers of fish to a given numeral and how many bubbles the fish are blowing. We will make some repeating patterns with 2 and 3 sea pictures and encouraging the children to continue the patterns. We will review 2D shapes, spotting 2d shapes in sea and beach pictures and making our own sea animals using 2d shapes.

**Understanding the World.** We will explore how land and sea animals differ and look at features of a fish. We will discuss our own beach and sea experiences and explore how to stay safe in the water and in the sea, linking this to Health Week and also how to stay safe in the sun. We have arranged a visit from the RNLi and they will help us understand how to keep safe near water. We will use sand draw on the iPad to make messages for our friends. We will make our own small and large boats and investigate floating and sinking, making note of the items that floated or sank.

**Expressive Arts and Design.** We will create our own ice cream parlour and use this as a stimulus for mark making, creating ice creams, menus and supporting and enhancing our communication and language skills. We will be listening to the sounds and music that animals such as whales make and we will make our own seaside sound scape, thinking of all the different sounds at the seaside.

**Physical Development.** We are developing our fine and gross motor control through the use of large equipment such as our outdoor play equipment as well as small equipment in our finger gym area. We also use a program called Jumpstart Jonny which is an exciting exercise program delivered through dance. We will continue to practise cutting skills and making snips in paper and holding a pencil correctly to make shapes and marks on the paper.

**Communication and Language.** We will be listening to different stories about under the sea and responding to questions showing our understanding of the story. We will also discuss predictions to the end of stories that we read. We will be learning new topic words to help describe what they see and hear. We will have props available to re-enact and retell under the sea stories such as 'The rainbow fish'.

**Personal, Social and Emotional Development.** We will read Rainbow Fish, thinking how we can be a good friend and how we can share. We will be listening to under water music and talking about how it makes us feel. We will be learning about how to be safe near water and how to stay safe in the sun. We will be explaining the facts we have found out about under the sea and sharing it with our friends. Linked to health week we will be learning about oral hygiene and how to keep our teeth healthy.

## Ideas for activities to complete at home



- Read texts at home with your child such as story books, magazines, labels on food packaging, signs in the environment.
- When going to the shops, let your child make a shopping list!
- Rip up paper together, strengthening wrist movements.
- Encourage your child to dress and undress themselves, even with clothes that have zips and buttons.
- There are many things that you can do with playdough too - cutting/snips with scissors, cutting with a pizza cutter, rolling and manipulating it, making models.
- Use sand, shaving foam, cream, flour etc to write and make marks in!
- Maths should be learnt in a practical manner e.g. counting the stairs to bed and socks into the washing machine, recognising numbers on buses and doors and so on.
- Play games which allow your child to take turns such as Frustration, snap and any board game.
- If you have an iPad, some fantastic apps which aid learning are; Little digits, twinkl phonics, toca boca apps, lego apps, sand write, magnetic letters.
- Finally, school can be tiring! Please ensure that your child gets enough sleep. Bedtime and morning routines are key to a productive and enjoyable day.

## GPS on Social Media



Facebook: @grangetownprimary



Twitter: @Grangetown\_PS



Instagram: grangetown\_ps (to re-launch Sep 2022)