Naphill and Walters Ash School

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Year R Gruffalo and Hairy Maclary class

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Firstly, let me welcome you to Year R. We have had a busy couple of days getting to know your children and I hope that they have benefited from the quiet induction day they have experienced.

The main priority over the next 3 weeks is to settle your child into the unit so that they are confident within their new environment and with all the adults. We will be establishing routines; ensuring children are familiar with all the resources and how to access them; setting down expected codes of behaviour and helping the children to form good relationships with all adults and peers. Although your child has a key person they will work with all adults in the unit. If you have any concerns please speak to the class teacher in that day.

Alongside the settling activities our topic this half term will be Rhyme. We will be introducing the children to ‘Talk for Writing’ through the stories, ‘The Gruffalo’ and ‘Hairy Maclary’’. The curriculum map has been included so you can see what we will be working on. We will be looking at rhyme both in nursery rhymes and stories: please practise saying nursery rhymes and listening for rhymes in stories. Practise aurally listing rhyming words i.e. cat, mat, hat, rat… as well as listening out for initial sounds in words. Once we have assessed the children they will be grouped for phonics and we will send out work appropriate to their ability.

In Mathematics we are looking at counting accurately, recognising numbers, identifying basic shapes and using positional vocabulary.

We will be very busy assessing the children and look forward to meeting you at the parents’ consultation evenings when we will share our findings with you. Parents’ evenings have been arranged for **Wednesday 8th November and Thursday 9th November**. You will have a letter nearer the time to sign up for an appointment on these nights to see your child’s key person. We will also hold a **Curriculum meeting and the children will help introduce you to ‘Talk for Writing’ at a mini assembly** all on **Tuesday 17th October at 2pm.** At this meeting and assembly we will tell you generally about the Foundation Stage Curriculum, our phonics scheme ‘Read write Inc’ and the Baseline Assessment. The children will perform the stories they have learned and we will explain ‘Talk for Writing.’ Please come along to see your child perform and learn about what we have been doing.

You should have been sent an activation email from Tapestry for your child’s learning journey. I can see lots of you have been using it and we hope you are enjoying seeing what your child is doing at school. Can you please upload a photo of something you did in the summer so we can talk about this and the children can share these pictures with the rest of the class. If you are experiencing any problems with Tapestry please speak to your child’s class teacher and we will try to sort this out as soon as possible. You should receive information on Tapestry most days; initially we are making lots of observations as we are get to know your children, but this will slow down as we get to know them better and learning becomes more focussed. Each teacher is responsible for uploading their own key children’s information. We aim to reply to any comments you make within 48 hours so, if you have an urgent query, please come and talk to a member of staff.

We will start getting changed for formal PE sessions soon so please ensure your child has the correct, labelled kit in school. Forest School will be every Thursday and will start nearer to or after half term, depending on how the initial training goes! More information on this and groupings will follow nearer the time. We will learn the rules on the school field so your child does not need Forest School clothes for these sessions.

Please remember to send your child to school with a book bag to take home their pictures and a library book. Every child should have a clearly named water bottle with them every day so they can have access to water at all time. If you are bringing your own lunch, this needs to be separate to their lunchtime drink.

A final plea! We will be spending about 50% of the time outdoors so please make sure your child has a pair of named wellies left in school and a clearly named waterproof coat every day.

Many thanks for your time. If you have any queries please contact your child’s class teacher.

Foundation Stage Team