

AUTUMN 1 – JULIA DONALDSON CLASS

Dear Parents Carers,

We are looking forward to the start of a positive and productive partnership with you to support the learning development of.....

During approximately the first 3 weeks we will be observing and working with your child to assess their current knowledge, understanding and skills. This activity provides us with a base-line from which future progress can be measured. Alongside this, we are having a mini topic around the story, 'What the Ladybird Heard'. You can support the work in school by sharing the following finger rhyme with your child and emphasising that there are **less/fewer** ladybirds after each verse.

**Five little ladybirds, climbing on the door
One flew away and then there were four.
Four little ladybirds, sitting on a tree.
One flew away and then there were three.
Three little ladybirds, sitting on a shoe
One flew away and then there were two.
Two little ladybirds, looking for some fun
One flew away and then there was one.
One little ladybird, hiding behind the sun
One flew away and then there was none.**

In addition, the children will be practising their careful counting skills i.e. counting with 1:1 correspondence. Please use every opportunity to count with them in real life situations, such as the number of stairs on the way to bed, the number of knives and forks at tea time, the number of shoes on the rack or the number of red cars you pass on your walk to school.

Our phonics teaching begins immediately with an emphasis on rhyme and other activities that help children tune into the sounds of our language. You can help by playing games such as 'I spy' and visiting www.PhonicsPlay.co.uk → 'Phase 1', with your child.

The first word we support children to write correctly is their first name. At Mill Hill School, children learn to write, as the attached sheet indicates, using an exit stroke. If your child is keen to practise their name at home, please encourage them to hold their writing tool correctly and to form their letters according to the attached sheet.

During the next 2 weeks, your child will be bringing their first key words home and because our provision matches the learning needs of each individual child, as soon as they

are competent with those words (presented in any order) just write their name on the board next to the reading pack box and new ones will be sent home that day.

In your child's book bag, you will find a bookmark which details ways you can support your child's reading experience. We cannot emphasise enough how much of a difference you will make to your child's reading comprehension skills if you use it every time you share any book with your child.

PE lessons are wonderful in the Foundation Stage and we are beginning our programme with gymnastics which involves using the large equipment in the hall. PE is on a Thursday afternoon; however PE kits should be in school at all times. Most families/carers take the kit home for a wash at the end of each half-term.

OUTDOOR AREA

We need your cooperation to help your child quickly learn that our outside area, including the grassed part, is not open for them and any siblings to use and explore, before and after school.

Finally, we are always here to help in any way we can – please just ask!

Kind regards

Pauline Grainger

Maureen Maltby