



FIR BANK PRIMARY

'Where everyone matters'

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September 2019

Welcome to Green Class

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to your first year at Fir Bank Primary School. The following information is intended to give you a better understanding of the structure and work carried out in Green Class.

As parents, your support and co-operation play a vital part in your child's education. We have an open door policy which means that you are always welcome to come into the classroom, to share your child's achievements. We are happy to discuss any aspect of your child's education, please arrange an appointment with your child's class teacher.

The Year's Main Focus

Our main focus in EYFS is to provide a stimulating and enjoyable teaching and learning environment. One of our main aims is for children to settle in quickly and happily, to develop their personal and social skills encouraging independence and responsibility.

Topics

Throughout the school year we will cover a broad spectrum of topics which will incorporate all areas of learning within the Early Years Foundation Stage. These topics are dictated by your child's interests and we aim to provide a personalised curriculum with activities at the level appropriate to your child. All topics involve discovering about themselves and the environment in which they live. There will be a balance between science, history and geography based topics.

Handwriting

In EYFS, the children are introduced to different letters of the alphabet daily and they are encouraged to learn the letter sound and name. Children are introduced to handwriting when appropriate for that particular child. During the first term at school we plan for many activities which will strengthen the muscles needed for writing throughout. These include; construction building, using play dough and scissor skills etc.

Once children have a good understanding of letters and their use, we then provide opportunities to practice the formation and orientation of specific letters. In Green Class we learn to write in many fun ways; We finger paint, we chalk on the floor outside, we write in sand, we make letters out of play dough, we draw letters in the air, etc. Finally, once we have acquired the appropriate fine motor control and are able to hold a pencil correctly we learn how to write on whiteboards and paper.



Reading Books

Once the children have learnt all their initial sounds and can blend and segment words confidently, they progress onto reading scheme books. In EYFS we use a variety of phonetic reading books to give us confidence when learning how to blend letters together to read words. Once the children have reached a certain standard of phonetic knowledge, they can take books home to reinforce letter sounds, vocabulary and an understanding of books. This is a great opportunity for you to listen to their reading and see their progression in school. Parents are encouraged to write their personal comments in their child's reading record, regarding their child's reading.

Homework

Within the next two weeks your child will come home with their home/school book. Parents can use their child's home/school book to communicate with staff, share special news, outings and to complete homework tasks given by the teacher. We will also begin taking children in small groups to the local library to choose stories to share in class, and to the shops to buy classroom resources.

Coming in to school

Up to the first half term, parents may enter the coat peg area with their child. Our intention is to make transition into school as smooth and easy as possible. We recognise that you may like to see the location of your child's peg and help them with their belongings in these early stages. As soon as your child is ready please encourage them to enter school independently. After the October half term, we ask parents to say their goodbyes at the door.

Outdoor play

A major aspect of EYFS curriculum is the emphasis on outdoor play. We do this in **ALL** weathers! We all go outside on a daily basis even if it is raining, snowing, windy, sunny etc. Please always ensure your child brings appropriate clothing into school. We have a class set of waterproof suits which we will put on your child if it is very wet or snowy. Please ensure you send into school a pair of wellies for your child to wear! These will be kept in your child's green tray for your child to access whenever it is wet or muddy. We strive to keep all children as clean as possible but there will be circumstances where your child will get dirty (this is the fun part of being a child!) You are welcome to send into school a spare outfit which your child can change into if needed. This will be kept on their coat peg.

Celebrating Successes

Teachers at Fir Bank adopt a positive teaching style and are well aware that it is important to give positive reinforcement and praise whenever the opportunity arises. A child will be continually praised and awarded by moving their name up our ladder to outstanding for varied achievements. In class we also use pennies to reinforce good behaviour. The children earn pennies when they demonstrate progress in any areas of learning and development. The children can save their pennies in school and spend them in our class superstore.

Our whole school weekly Celebration Assembly is held on Friday mornings at 9am, parents are welcome. You will be informed when Green Class begin attending this special assembly.

P.E and Uniform

Green Class P/E day is Tuesday. Please make sure that names are on all clothes, bags and shoes. Things do get mixed up! Make sure that your child can manage their clothes and shoes- i.e. zips, Velcro- fasteners are easier than buttons and laces. PE kits should be kept on your child's peg clearly labelled. We will send them home at the end of each half term or more often if they are dirty.

Any questions or queries please speak with one of teachers in Green Class

We are very much looking forward to teaching your children this year.

Miss Simpson, Mrs Smith, Mrs Scholes and Mrs Kerrigan

