



Hatch Warren Infant School

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Year R - Autumn 1 2026 Newsletter

Dear Parents/Carers,

A very warm welcome to Hatch Warren Infant School from the Early Years team. This is the first of six Year R newsletters that you will receive during the coming year. It aims, along with the topic grids that outline each topic, to give you an overview of what the children will be getting up to over the half term. It also aims to provide you with the answers to some frequently asked questions. We hope this information will enable you to support your child at home, through discussions and lots of practical fun activities. As with everything we do, if there is something you are unsure of or want to ask us please do not hesitate to speak to your child's class teacher or teaching assistant.

Year R

Year R is the last year of the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum and we will use this to form the basis of our topics. On a typical day the children will participate in activities involving all seven areas of learning, which are:

The Three Prime Areas:

- Communication and Language
- Physical Development
- Personal, Social and Emotional Development

The Four Main Areas

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

The children experience these seven topics through the play opportunities we provide and this is a key principle of Early Years practice. Whatever the weather, come rain or shine, the children will have opportunities on a daily basis for outside play, so please ensure they come to school with the appropriate clothing - we don't want any children missing out on the fun! Therefore, please make sure your child has their **welly boots, a waterproof coat and a sunhat or gloves and a winter hat in school every day depending on the season**. Please ensure all these items are named.

Topics for the term

Over this first half term our main aim is to help the children settle happily into school life. We will spend time getting to know each other, our classroom, the rules and routines of school; including the important people and places around school. Also, during these first few weeks we will give the children opportunities to familiarise themselves with the Year R setting by experiencing all that we have on offer. We will begin phonics teaching within the next few weeks and there will be further information sent to you at that time.

Useful Information

1. Year R have PE on a Tuesday. Please can the children bring in **a red or white t-shirt and a black pair of shorts or leggings**. Please could these items all come in a drawstring bag. The children will have one PE session per week but will have opportunities to access outside play and group activities on a daily basis. On Tuesdays please remember to take out or, if newly pierced, tape earrings and tie back long hair. **We will let you know when this is starting.**
2. Your child needs to have a water bottle in school daily. Make sure that their name is clearly visible on their bottle. They will also need a drink in their lunch box, they can have juice or squash for their lunchtime drink if they wish. Please can you remove any plastic lids from fruit shoot style bottles.
3. All children will be provided with a free snack of fruit or vegetables every day. If your child wishes to bring their own, please make sure it is in a small, named container. If you do provide your child with a snack from home then please ensure it is only fruit, vegetables or plain bread sticks.
4. Once your child stays for lunch, please ensure that you put their name on their lunchbox (if having packed lunch) as several other children may well have the same one! Also please name any containers you use inside the lunchbox. Remember no nuts, peanut butter or food containing nuts please.
5. Can your children please leave their own toys, jewellery and other special items at home. We do not want them to get lost or broken. If we need them to bring anything in from home, we will let you know.

Reading

Your child will need to bring their book bag to school every day. If you still need a book bag they can be purchased from the office. At first these will be used to carry letters and school library books. The children will start to bring home wordless pictures and books from Friday 11th September. When your child recognises the phonics sounds from week one and two of our phonics sessions they will bring home a book with words.

We encourage the children to read a variety of books at home and to make use of the school and local library. After half term we will be able to ask for parents or grandparents to come in and help read in the mornings but in order to do this all helpers must be DBS checked for our school. If you would like to help please see the office now for your form as it can take several weeks for the certificate to come through especially at this time of year.

We are all really looking forward to getting to know you and your children and ensuring that they all enjoy their first year at school. Please remember that if there is anything you would like to ask us, feel free to come speak to any member of the team .

Yours Sincerely,

The Early Years Team

Getting To Know You

The Topic

We will begin the topic by developing a class identity. We will create our own class rules of how we feel we should behave in school. We spend a lot of time getting to know the routines. We will spend the other weeks of the topic getting to know each other and our likes, dislikes and families. We also spend time meeting the other important people and places around our school.

Literacy

Phonics:

- Please check the weekly mailing every Friday for regular updates to phonics.

Reading:

- Sharing wordless pictures and books.
- Reading familiar words.
- Sharing and enjoying books.

Writing:

- Mark making and writing on paper and whiteboards, in sand and other materials.

Personal, Social And Emotional Development

- Getting to know my teachers, peers, classroom and the school.
- Listening as a class and group.
- Learning class routines; sitting on carpet, tidying up, putting things away, lining up, tucking chairs in.
- Establishing daily routines; taking register, helpers names, counting packed lunch and dinner names, days of the week, weather.
- Playing a game - taking turns.
- Making new friends.
- Finding places in the school.
- Sharing resources.
- PSHE: Me - A Special Person.

Useful Links:

The school website for the children:

<http://www.hwis.hants.sch.uk/fluffys-learning-zone/>

Numberblocks:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/shows/numberblocks>

Super Sonic Phonic Friends:

<https://www.supersonicphonicfriends.co.uk/>

Mathematics

Numbers:

- Finding, representing and subitising to 3.

Numerical Pattern:

- Identifying and matching objects.
- Sorting objects.
- Comparing amounts.
- Creating simple patterns.
- Comparing size, mass and capacity.

Communication and Language

- Communicating freely, initiating conversation, playing in the role play.
- Circle time, listen and respond to others.
- Talking activities - getting to know each other and sharing stories.
- Small world; play with homes, cars, roads.
- Rhyming games, books and stories.
- Alliteration games and stories.
- Listening and attention activities.

Expressive Arts and Design

- Portrait painting
- Getting into role in the role-play house
- Cutting and sticking our class logo
- Using different media; paint, chalks, playdough, printing, etc
- Colour mixing
- Whole class - songs and dances
- Musical instruments and games
- Using simple tools to create masterpieces

Physical Development

- Dough Gym/ Noodle Gym
- Cutting
- Pegs
- Beads
- Puzzles
- Using pencils, pens, felt tips, chalks with a good grip.
- Cars and tracks
- Lacing cards
- Large construction
- Bikes and scooters
- Changing and dressing
- Controlling bodies
- Using the hall safely
- Skills for games - throwing, catching, moving and stopping.

Understanding the World

- Building with different construction resources. Thinking about what we have built and answering questions.
- Teddy Bear Hunt around the school
- Discussion of ourselves, school, home - What is the same/different?
- Playing with cornflour and other mouldable materials. What is it like? What happens to it?

Home Challenge!

Each term we set a home challenge for you to help your child complete at home. They are designed to support your child's learning in school.

They are optional, but the children really enjoy sharing them with the class.

This half term we would like you to support your child to create a piece of artwork to show what makes them happy at school. You can use any medium of art you wish but we ask that it is no bigger than A3. Please send your named creations into school on:

Friday 2nd October