



Brookside Foundation Unit
September 2011

Dear Parent(s),

Welcome to a new term in the Foundation Unit at Brookside. We hope you all had an enjoyable summer break.

We would like to remind you about a few routines which ensure that the unit runs smoothly and encourages the children to settle in easily.

- There is a registration mat for the children to indicate whether they are having dinners or sandwiches which will be placed on tables in the unit. Please help your child put their name in the correct place.
- There is also a feelings board (located just inside the doorway to the classroom) where the children are invited to put their peg on the appropriate feeling for that day. Please can you try and spend a few minutes talking with your child about how they are feeling and help them to find and attach their peg.
- Please continue to share your child's reading books with them on a daily basis as often as possible. It is also valuable to share other picture books with your child, encouraging them to tell the story using the pictures. Please record the reading your child has done in their reading diary, both school books and any other books, to help us monitor your child's progress. We will change your child's books regularly, though not necessarily on the same day each week. We would like all the reading folders to be kept in the children's own trays.
- We will put any letters that the school sends out into your child's reading folder, so please check it regularly.
- School fruit is provided as part of a national scheme but your child may also bring in their own fruit to eat either in the morning or in the afternoon. There is a fruit box for your child's fruit to go in at the beginning of the day. Please put fruit in a labelled container or clearly name the piece of fruit to avoid any confusion!
- School milk is available each day, but for your child to receive this, you need to register online. Please ask one of the staff in the unit for details or make enquiries at the school office.
- At Brookside, children are provided with a water bottle and are encouraged to drink water regularly during the day. They can help themselves to a drink of water whenever they wish. Each group has a coloured tray for water bottles. Your child will bring their water bottle home every Friday to be washed. Children are also entitled to milk each day.
- Any money, letters or reply slips should be given to a member of staff in the morning. Please put dinner money in an envelope with your child's name on and the days they will be staying for dinner.
- Your child needs to have their PE kit in school all week. The children need to change into their PE kit every Thursday morning. As we are timetabled to use

the hall straight after registration, many parents help the children get changed into their PE kit before they leave. It would help if their clothes and shoes are put in their PE bag and put back on their peg.

- The PE kit should include shorts, t-shirt, PE shoes and a tracksuit in the winter. Please ensure items are clearly named and easy for your child to put on and take off. If you wish to buy the Brookside PE kit please ask one of the adults in the unit.
- If your child wishes to bring things from home to show their friends or play with at playtime, it should be either kept in a bag on their peg or in their tray. Please help by encouraging your child to bring small items that can be looked after easily. We will be encouraging children to bring specific things to school for show and tell times or related to the topic. These do not necessarily need to fit in a tray!
- Please ensure school jumpers and cardigans are named and remind your child to hang them on their peg when they take them off.

This term our topics before half term will be 'Houses and Homes' and 'Autumn'. We will be covering all the areas of learning through the topic, with a continued focus on play-based learning. If you have any information or resources that would enhance our topic, please let us know.

We are teaching the phonics aspect of reading through the 'Jolly Phonics' scheme. The children will be learning all the sounds and actions from the 'Jolly Phonics' scheme and sharing these with you. For those of you new to the unit, 'Jolly Phonics' is an early phonic-based programme to teach children core skills and knowledge of reading, writing and spelling. Please feel free to talk to any of us if you have any queries or concerns about 'Jolly Phonics'. This phonic programme is just one of the approaches used to teach reading and writing skills on a daily basis in the Foundation Unit.

We readily welcome help from parents/grandparents/carers in the Foundation Unit. If you are able to help at all during the week with reading, creative activities, playing games etc., please let us know. Any help would be hugely appreciated, even if it is not on a regular basis.

Finally, we hope your child settles quickly back into school life. Please do not hesitate to pop in to talk to one of us if you have any concerns.

Joyce Riding and Rachel Clark