



NANSTALLON SCHOOL

AD VITAM PARAMUS

04 September 2020

Diamond CLASS NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Diamond Class!

The children have all settled in well this week and are full of enthusiasm and energy! Their responses to our new areas have been brilliant and they are becoming incredibly creative and independent. They chose the name of the class after a very democratic vote!

We operate a child-led rather than termly topic led curriculum. This means that:

- we will be following the children's interests;
- linking curriculum objectives to what the children would like to learn;
- We will develop a love of reading through using books throughout the year to cover curriculum objectives.

The environment has been set up to enable the children to achieve great results in all areas of both the EYFS and KS1 areas of learning. The children will take part in daily continuous provision (activities which are always available to them) which will be enhanced with extra learning opportunities and challenges.

In addition to this, children will take part in daily phonics sessions and throughout the week will also do guided, teacher-initiated Maths, Number Talk and English sessions.

Reading:

Children will bring individual reading books home along with high frequency words. Please read with them at home each day and write in their reading journal. Once they have read

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their book they will get the chance to choose another book from their colour band. At this early stage it is so important school and home encourage a love of reading, so children might sometimes bring a book home that they have already read. If they do this, it is because they enjoyed that book and would like to read it again!

We operate a system whereby children move up to the next colour band as soon as they are ready, so do not need to read every book in the band before we move them on. Within class, we do not regularly hear children read on an individual basis as the teacher-led sessions are through Guided Reading or Book Talk. Book bags need to be in school every day.

Indoor and Outdoor Learning:

Our outdoor environment means that our children go outside in all weathers. They are all provided with a waterproof suit but still need to bring a waterproof coat and wellies. Please provide a pair of labelled wellies that can be left in school at all times.

P.E. will be on Wednesday with Go Active, this year we would like your child to come to school dressed and ready for P.E. this will mean that they can maximise the time for physical activity. Please also remember that earrings should not be worn on a PE day and long hair should be tied back.

Life Skills

On a Tuesday afternoon there will be a 3-weekly rotation of year groups where children will either take part in Forest School activities, gardening or an art project. On Wednesday mornings we are welcoming back Laura Garcia to lead music sessions to all year groups. On Friday mornings we are once again having a half-termly rotation of groups to take part in life-skills activities which will cover;

- Forest School
- P.E.
- Cooking
- Sewing

If your child is in the P.E. or Forest School group for the half term we will let you know in advance so that they can come dressed accordingly.

Tapestry/Seesaw

We are introducing Seesaw for all of Diamond Class which will be the main activity recording system so that you can stay up to date with your child's learning. Your contribution is just as important as it previously was with Tapestry and we look forward to sharing all that we get up to in Diamond Class.

Home learning activities will also be set through Seesaw, we have sent out email links to your child's individual Seesaw page for you to activate, please let us know if you have any problem doing this and we can send out another link if needed.

Tapestry will be used by teaching staff as an assessment tool for EYFS and KS1.

Please only use Seesaw for your own observations and communication with us.

Health and wellbeing:

All children now have a Nanstallon water bottle which is kept in school, washed each evening and re-filled with water the next day. They therefore no longer need to bring a water bottle to school. Fruit snack is also provided in our "Snack Café" in class, free of charge, so they do not need to bring their own snack. We are excited to introduce toast on a Wednesday and 'Smoothie Friday' which the children will be learning the skills to make themselves.

Please note we have a 15 minute window for arrival between 9.00 and 9.15. In the interest of reducing contact and a bottleneck situation at our entrance, it would be appreciated if parents don't all arrive together at 9am.

If you wish to drop off at the main entrance Mr Stephenson will ensure your child is safely guided to Diamond Class.

We are pleased that the children have settled in so well and are looking forward to welcoming back the year 2's on Monday. If you have any queries or concerns, please speak to a member of staff. We are always available at 9.00am, at the end of the day or on Seesaw and would be pleased to discuss any questions you might have.

Thank you for your support and we're looking forward to a great year!

Yours faithfully

Mrs S Brown, Miss L Finlay, Mrs A Robinson, Miss H Smallcombe and Miss R Ball.