



BANANAS-T CLASS NEWSLETTER

4th January 2022

Welcome back to Bananas Class and a Happy New Year to you all!

We hope that you have had an enjoyable break with your child. We are all very excited about our new topic and we have lots of fun and exciting activities planned.

This term our topic is '**Would you like to be an astronaut?**' This topic is all about **Space**. Our weekly themes will include: Planets, Aliens, Space Travel and Famous Astronauts. We will end the term with a very exciting and messy Space themed science week!

Literacy - This term we will be reading the following stories: Whatever Next, Back to Earth with a Bump, You Choose in Space and 10 Little Aliens. We will use story sacks, story stones and sensory trays to support our learning and to develop our understanding of the story.

Maths - In maths, we will participate in a variety of activities relating to numbers and numerical patterns. We will build with bricks/stack objects in imitation, explore matching 2 equal sets, engage in adding or removing objects to a group, join in rote counting, notice numerals (number symbols) and respond to some spatial and positional language (e.g. inside, outside, over, through, in, next to, on), fit shapes in to shape sorters and sort objects into groups using own and a given criteria

PE - Please can you ensure that your child has PE kit in school as we continue with our PE sessions with the Tennyson Road Sports coach on a Wednesday afternoon.

Outdoor curriculum - The outdoor area is such an important part of our classroom and as such the children will be using it for their learning in all weathers. We will also continue with our weekly walks to local parks. Please ensure that they come to school dressed appropriately for any weather and if you have not already done so, please send in a spare set of named clothes so that we can change your child's clothes if necessary.

Phonics - Our daily phonics sessions will focus on environmental sounds, instrumental sounds, body percussion, rhythm and rhyme and voice sounds. We will also continue to learn the sounds that letters make (phonemes) with a focus on a 'Sound of the week'. The children will then be supported to segment and blend these sounds to spell and read words. We would be grateful if you could continue to

help your child to find something beginning with the letter sound of the week at home and then put the object in their book bag so that they can show it in class. In these current circumstances we need to continue our request that all items sent in from home are wipeable. Thank you so much for your participation with this; the children love sharing their objects from home with us!

Below is a list of dates and the letter sound for that week:

3 rd January c/k	10 th January u	17 th January b
24 th January f	31 st January e	7 th February l

Our weekly 'Play Dough Disco' sessions will support each child to develop their hand and finger strength as they poke, pinch, splat, roll, and squeeze the dough to the song 'If you're happy and you know it!'. Developing hand and finger strength will enable the children to engage in 'Kinetic Letters' activities to develop our handwriting skills. We will also use our magic wands to participate in big air writing and use the Lynx Clevertouch Interactive Whiteboard for mark making activities.

How you can help:

- Please read to your child/share a book with them whenever possible and record this in their yellow reading record.
- Please continue to send in your 'wow' post-it notes; it is really lovely to celebrate your child's home achievements with them.
- Please ensure your child has these items in school every day - book bag, home school book, snack & drink/lunch & drink [NO NUTS], spare pair of clothes, underwear and socks - all items to be labelled with their name.

If you have any other concerns or questions, please communicate with us via your child's Home School book. Many Thanks,

Ellen, Lidia, Katie, Rebecca, and Sarah
The Bananas Class Team