

Meet the Teacher – Information for Parents of Dragonflies Class

Who will be teaching my child?

- Teacher: Miss Amy Barnes
- Teaching Assistants: Mrs Aggie Krzanik (Monday), Mrs Becky Shadbolt (Tuesday – Friday)
- PPA Cover: Mrs Katie Stevens, Mrs Gemma Purser and Toby

What does my child need in school?

Stationery: To ensure all children have the right equipment in school and to support parents with costs, we are providing children with all the stationery they need in school. You do not need to provide your child with any stationery.

Wellies and Coats: All children require both wellies and waterproof coats in school. Wellies stay at school all year and coats come back and forth with you each day. We will be going out to play whatever the weather and using the field all year round. We do have some secondhand wellies and coats available by asking the office.

When does my child have PE and what do they need?

PE days for Dragonflies class are on Mondays and Thursdays unless specified by an email from Miss Barnes.

The children wear PE kits to school on PE days.

- House coloured T-shirt (this does NOT need to have a school logo)
- Black leggings/ shorts/ tracksuit trousers (grey or navy will also be fine!)
- School jumper/ cardigan
- For cold weather, including non-PE days, children can wear a plain, dark coloured fleece
- Kit will be provided for inter-school tournaments
- Teachers will also be wearing PE kit
- Branded T-shirts can be purchased from myclothing.com if desired

What will my child be learning about this term?

In Dragonflies, we introduce new themes to provide inspiration for learning, whilst providing the flexibility for children to follow their own interests and ideas. Using the 'Characteristics of Effective Learning' to support us, we help children understand how to learn and equip them with the skills they will need as lifelong learners. Children learn through a balance of child-initiated and adult-directed activities and our themes are supported by a range of quality key texts. The themes being covered this term in Dragonflies are:

- Welcome to Dragonflies
- Houses
- Harvest
- Bonfire Night
- Castles and Dragons
- Space
- Christmas

What does the class timetable look like?

There is a lot to fit in during a week! The Dragonflies timetable is carefully structured so that children have whole class directed teaching, adult led individual and small group work and free choice time and this is adapted throughout the year to take into consideration the changing needs of the children.

The gate opens at 8.40am and the school day starts at 8.50am - the children should be in the classroom by this time so we can get going quickly.

There is play time from 10.20 to 10.35 and lunchtime from 12.00 to 1.00pm.

The school days end at 3.20 for all children except Reception who finish at 3.15pm.

An example class timetable is attached – please be aware that this can change on a weekly basis depending on what is going on and it is only a guide.

How can I support my child at home?

Reading! We encourage you to enjoy books with your child as often as possible. Our aim is to develop a love of reading and books. In Dragonflies and Key Stage 1 the children will bring home books that they have been reading in their groups in school. These are matched to the phonics they are learning and are fully decodable. They will be familiar with the text and will enjoy showing you that they can read it. Children in Dragonflies will bring reading books home after the October Half Term. Please feel free to log reading in your child's reading record which will come home with your child's first reading book.

We also encourage parents to upload photos on Tapestry of what your child has been getting up to at home. This could be clubs they attend, doing baking, learning to ride their bike, singing a song... anything! We'll share them with the rest of the class in school if the child would like to.

What Trips and Events are planned for this term?

We have drawn up a schedule for trips and events this year and this will be sent out to you.

This term we will be a trip to Chichester Festival Theatre in December to see 'Hey Christmas Tree'. More information will follow nearer the time.

When will we have forest school?

Dragonflies will have Forest School in the Summer Term.

How can I help?

We rely on the goodwill of our wonderful volunteers to ensure activities such as school trips, forest school and swimming can go ahead. We also welcome volunteers to support with listening to readers. Have a hobby, interest or talent that you think children would enjoy? Would you like to run an after-school club? Thank you for all your support. Please get in touch if you want to volunteer. We will need to complete a safeguarding check (DBS) for anyone volunteering in school.