



Robin's Autumn 2016 Newsletter

First of all thank you for supporting us in settling your children in as quickly and as independently as possible by saying good-bye at our door. They seem to have very little difficulty in saying goodbye! They come in happily and immediately find something purposeful to do with very little help.

We have lovely play spaces at Houghton such as our Adventure Playground and best of all an amazing wooded playground for building dens. The children spend at least half of their day outdoors - all weathers, so thank you for sending in "weather-proof" clothing.

Our best day so far has been a rainy one, when we all got "water-proofed" and jumped into enormous puddles.

You may be wondering what your child does all day so the following is roughly how our days go:

8.40am - 9.30am	Choosing time. We will be listening to small groups of readers at this time too as the term progresses.
9.30am - 9.50am	Snack time - most times this is outdoors (but children can have their snacks at any time of the day). They have fruit or vegetables provided under the government's free scheme for children in Early Years and Key Stage 1. If you send a snack in, please ensure it is a healthy one. No crisps, sweets or chocolate please.
9.50am - 10.20am	Whole class Mathematics work and small group work. Frequently this takes place outdoors. Much of this is led by Robin's staff but we emphasise the importance of giving children time to independently work through ideas modelled for them. Children are aware of the expectations at these times and usually produce some impressive work.
10.20am - 10.35am	BREAK TIME for the whole school. Robins are now happily integrating with the older children but can choose to retreat to our outside classroom.
10.35am - 11.35am	Role play, story time, creative activities and writing activities, much of which takes place outdoors.
11.35am - 11.45am	BREAK TIME as above.
11.45am - 12.30pm	Phonics whole group and small group work with adults. This also takes place outdoors as much as possible.
12.30pm - 1.45pm	LUNCHTIME Lunch and play (Supervised by mid-day staff and supported by designated older children)
1.45pm - 2.00pm	Rest time/quiet reading time
2.00pm - 2.30pm	Topic work and creative activities (e.g. spiders, hedgehogs, pumpkins...)
2.30pm - 2.50pm	Adventure Playground/Woodland
2.50pm - 3.15pm	End of the day activities... preparing to go home. Parents may collect their child from 3.00pm onwards.

We have P.E. lessons regularly and as often as we can during the week. At the moment the children are just changing out of their socks and shoes for hall sessions.

...and that is why your children are tired!

Again, we can't thank you enough for ensuring a smooth start to our day by saying good-bye at the door! You have been fabulous!

Our school Golden Rules are

Be gentle (with people and things in actions and words)

Listen

Work hard

Tell the truth. Use your manners.

We look after things

We are kind

We teach the children about each rule so that they understand them and keep to them.

It would be really helpful to your child if you could support us with these rules at home.

Supporting learning at home

Reading diaries: Just make a note of what you read with your child. Comments are optional but helpful to us. We have begun to share books with children on an individual basis which takes a little time and have tried to write comments about the session. Daily or regular engagement with the school folder helps children to come to our reading sessions confidently.

Folders with letters/sounds and words: Practise these regularly if you can. Only do the little handwriting exercises if you are supervising the correct sequence of motions within the letters. They do not have to be done. It is only to communicate to you what we are doing at school.

Topic work: Often there will be a message about our next topic on the Robins' web page or in your child' book bag. Right now we are finding out the truth about wolves and spiders.

Mathematics: Talk about it! Talk about clocks, comparing measures, naming shapes and talking about their attributes, lots and lots of counting (backwards and forwards), counting objects accurately...

IMPORTANT DATES

Friday, 7th October 2.00pm Robins' parents information afternoon

Friday, 21st October 9.00am Robins' Class Assembly

Monday, 12th December 2.30pm: Robin's Nativity Play

Our main topic this term: WOLVES!

Creative Development <i>Singing, listening</i> <i>Exploring instruments</i> <i>Making sound stories</i> <i>Movement to music</i> <i>High , low voices</i> <i>Work on colour</i> <i>Drawing</i> <i>Mark-making</i> Design and Technology <i>Wet/dry sand</i> <i>Changes in materials</i> <i>Celebration Foods</i> <i>Building bridges, houses and chairs</i>	Literacy <i>Traditional Tales and Nursery Rhymes</i> <i>Wolf information texts</i> <i>Role Play</i> <i>Introduction to Oxford Reading Tree</i> <i>High Frequency words</i> <i>Early Phonic Work</i> <i>Speaking, Listening Skills</i> Information Technology <i>Safety</i> <i>Working on the electronic whiteboard</i> <i>Making changes in pictures</i> History <i>Patterns of the day</i> <i>Birthdays</i> <i>Sequencing events</i> <i>Handling objects from the past</i> <i>Guy Fawkes</i>	Mathematics <i>Counting, ordering, comparing numbers to 10+</i> <i>Shape, space and pattern</i> <i>Solving simple problems</i> Geography <i>Postcards</i> <i>Finding holiday places on a globe</i> <i>Changing weather</i> <i>Making Autumn collections</i> <i>Journeys around the village</i> <i>Finding out where wolves live on a globe</i> Science <i>All about us</i> <i>How we have grown</i> <i>Electricity: safety</i> <i>Hedgehogs</i> <i>Spiders</i> <i>Leaves</i> <i>Pumpkins</i> <i>Owls - A visit from The Raptor Centre</i> <i>Darkness</i> <i>Wolves</i>	Personal, Social <i>Sharing ALL ABOUT ME books</i> <i>Choosing time procedures</i> <i>Routines of the day</i> <i>Saying thank you</i> <i>Sharing</i> <i>Golden rules</i> Religious Education <i>Harvest, Christmas</i> <i>Autumn celebrations</i> <i>Places of worship</i> <i>Celebration Photos</i> P.E. <i>Getting changed</i> <i>Movement to music</i> <i>Negotiating space</i> <i>Listening to instructions</i>
--	---	---	--