 **Autumn 2017**

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Nursery, we hope this year will be a fun and exciting time for your child and we look forward to working with you over the next year. This term our main topic will begin with a focus on being a Superhero, looking at how we can learn special skills to help with our learning. We will be looking at using our super senses to help solve problems as well as looking at what makes a good superhero and a good learner.

Literacy - Fiction will include the stories – Whify Wilson starting school, Elliot super hero, Max, Supertato, How to be a superhero, Owl babies, The Scarecrow who didn`t scare, Harry`s Hazelnut as well as numerous traditional and modern nursery rhymes, lots of family, Autumn, Harvest and Christmas related stories. We will be creating superhero comic strips and special secret notes. We will read lots of different stories to help foster our love of reading and start developing an understanding, asking questions about the story and characters as well as starting to gain some understanding of how our sounds help to read words. We will begin to look at non-fiction texts and will look at the features of giving superhero instructions and using instructions to complete different tasks including making vegetable soup and Christmas biscuits. We will also be writing party invitations for our superhero party and letters to the Super Elves who live in our woods.

Phonic work and sound patterns. Over the year will be looking at Read Write Inc. sounds (RWI) set 1 sounds, A-Z. Please see our **school website** and the **RWI section** or the RWI website www.ruthmiskin.com/parents for further information and how to say all the sounds and say the rhymes as well as lots of tips on sharing a book with your child.

Language work - We have news time, talk baskets, story sacks, rhyme time, show and tell along with focussed sentence construction and speaking work, learning new key topic vocabulary and lots of finger rhymes and poetry related to our topic.

Topic work - will focus on starting school, how we can help ourselves learn-thinking about thinking, what it takes to be a special superhero, investigating our woods. Looking at the changes in seasons. Celebrating different festivals including Harvest, Fireworks, Christingle and Christmas. As well as investigating winter vegetables and making different Christmas decorations.

Forest schools – We will be exploring our woods, looking at seasonal changes and using natural materials to make superhero dens. If your child attends nursery on a **Tuesday afternoon** could you please ensure they wears clothes you are happy to get dirty in the woods that day! (Weather permitting). Please bring in a pair of labelled wellies to be left at school. (We always have some spare wellies in school if you do not have wellies or forget to bring some in).

Numeracy work - Counting lots of practical equipment. Counting up and back in ones to 5 and beyond. Singing number songs and learning number counting rhymes.

Addition and subtraction - Practical addition and subtraction of super hero toys and other equipment with one and two steps.

2D/3D Shape - Sort and match shapes using different criteria. Looking for shapes in the school environment.

Money - count and sorting coins.

P.E. - Hall time will be on a **Thursday morning**. This term we are focussing on movements both large/small and travelling across a variety of equipment both indoors and outside. Please bring in a **PE kit** of blue shorts and white T-shirt for that morning. Could you also make sure your child wears shoes they can easily take off and put on.(Do not worry if your child does not attend that day as we will be doing different P.E. activities outside most days.) Please can you help support your child by encouraging them to put on and take off their coats, clothes and shoes independently? We will obviously support those who need it.

Music - This term will focus on nursery rhymes, superhero music, Harvest and Christmas songs. We will also be using wooden instruments, shakers and bells as well as practising steady beats, fast and slow pace, developing our own beats as well as exploring different pieces of superhero themed music.

Art and design - We will be making superhero characters out of a variety of construction equipment and looking at superhero dens. Through our seasonal work we are looking at autumn shades and colour mixing, using natural materials for some autumn collages, as well as lots of chopping, peeling and cutting vegetables for our soup. Next term we will be using lots of powder paints and clay as well as looking at colour and light for fun fireworks, followed by creating 3D moving superhero puppets. Then it will be time for Christmas crafts.

Homework Cards - Your child will get a homework card for you to help support your child at home. This will also give you some ideas of what your child is learning in school each week. Could you please ensure this is signed by an adult. Please put homework cards into the take home box and not left in your child`s bag so it can be signed by a teacher each Friday.

Reading Records - Each child will have a reading record book for you and the teacher to make comments in. As nursery children come in on different days we have a flexible library system where you may swap books to share with your child as often as you want. If you wish for us to change your child`s book then please put them in the take home box. Unfortunately, staff do not have time to look in every child`s bag or ruck sack each day so anything you want us to look at or change then please put the items in to the take home box for us to deal with. Many thanks.

Spare Clothes – We request that you label and leave a spare change of clothes, underwear, socks, wet wipes in a bag and leave on your child`s peg, just in case there is an accident at school.

Labelled clothes - We have lots of coats, shoes and jumpers which are unmarked. Could you please ensure that your child`s items are labelled.

Learning to learn - The whole school is focussing on developing **metacognitive strategies** - getting the children to think about developing strategies to solve problems for themselves.

We have Lucy the learning bear in Nursery to help us look at different ways we can solve problems by ourselves or with our friends.

Please look at the school website and click on **Pupils** then on to **Robin** **class** to see some photos of what we get up to in school.

If you are unsure or worried about anything please just ask a member of the team at the start or end of the day and they will happily help.

Here's to a fantastic and fun filled year.

Warm wishes,

Mrs Robinson, Mrs Tucker and Mrs Rebhan