



**Dallington CEP
The Street
Dallington
East Sussex
TN21 9NH**

Dallington Class



**Autumn 2024:
Reception
My World**

Dear parents and carers,

Welcome to Dallington Class! What an exciting year we have ahead.

We would like to take this opportunity to extend a very warm welcome to our new parents and to welcome back to Dallington Class those of you who have older children in the school.

The children have started their school journey so enthusiastically, and we are delighted with how happily they are settling in. We are all having lots of fun together already.

Throughout the autumn term, Dallington Class will be looking at "My World", as a way of beginning to understand the important things to happen in their lives as well as a way in which we can celebrate each member of the class as a unique individual. Our primary focus will be on ensuring a smooth and happy transition to school as we get to know each other, explore our environment, settle in and learn the school routines and expectations.

Each week we will use a rich, high-quality key text to draw us into our learning and help inspire our play.

My World is a truly wonderful topic to begin our school year, offering us lots of opportunities to get to know each other. We will play lots of circle time games to help the children learn the names and personalities of each other. We will be exploring how special each one of us is, and we will spend time talking, drawing and writing about our families, homes and pets.

Overall, this first term is all about settling in, getting to know the children, assessing their needs and ensuring the learning is relevant, tailored and fun, with lots of opportunity for the children to lead their own exploring and learning through play. We create a supportive and nurturing classroom environment in which the children are encouraged to 'have a go' and to know that mistakes are more than ok, in fact, they make us better learners.

Dallington Class will be taught by Miss Weiss. Our amazing class TA, Mrs Mizen, is with us all day on a Monday, and then every morning for the rest of the week. We are supported by the lovely Miss Elliot on the other afternoons.

Our classroom is rooted in the premise of partnership between parent, teachers and child, and we really do operate an open door policy. Please come to us with any concerns or questions you may have, however big or small. We know how daunting it can be when your children start school (often just as much so for you as for them!), and we are here to help.

We use an online learning journey called Tapestry, which many of you will be familiar with from previous settings, as a way to share the children's learning with you. You should have received an email with log in instructions already—please let us know if not. We love to hear of the children's achievements at home, so please do share these with us on Tapestry too.

We look forward to a wonderful year together!

Miss Weiss and Mrs Mizen

Communication and Language

Communication and Language is at the heart of the Early Years Framework and an essential building block for all of our learning. As such, it is a huge focus for us at this time of year. We will play lots of listening games and share a rich variety of stories, rhymes and songs to help develop listening skills. The children will engage in story times every day, with opportunities not just to listen and talk about the stories they hear but also to retell them once they become very familiar. The children will also be developing the key skill of maintaining attention in small groups as well as in whole class activities.

As well as listening, there will also be plenty of time to talk! The children will be encouraged to talk about themselves and their families, as well as to use newly introduced vocabulary and to develop social phrases. During the child-initiated learning sessions that make up the majority of the day, the children will be encouraged to use talk in organising their play and communicating with their friends, with adult support and modelling.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Our focus for this term is, of course, getting to know each other and our new school. We will be learning the class and school rules, behaviour expectations and routines. We will be developing our independence, including being able to organise our own belongings in the morning when we arrive in class.

Through our topic, we will be talking about ourselves, our likes and dislikes, opinions and worries, and will be developing our understanding of ourselves as unique and valuable individuals. We will be exploring different emotions, learning to identify each one. We will have a special focus on showing kindness to our friends.

Physical Development

Fine motor: Our focus this term is on getting ready to begin to write. This means lots of threading, weaving, pouring and stirring activities. There will be lots of opportunities for the children to draw, paint and mark-make freely, alongside the teaching and modelling of letter formation and pencil grip. We will enjoy a dough disco every week to help strengthen our hand muscles too.

Gross motor: We will be developing upper arm and shoulder strength in preparation for early writing, as well as core strength to get us ready to sit comfortably at tables. There will be lots of opportunities to crawl, climb, pull up and hang, as we experiment with different ways to move and control our bodies.

PE: This term, we will focus on developing coordination and footwork, as well as balance. PE will be on Thursday each week. Reception children will be changing for PE at school in order to practise changing and develop independence, so please ensure your child has a named PE kit in school in readiness.

Literacy

The children will have the opportunity to hear lots of lovely stories in our daily story sessions, which will help develop the good listening skills that are needed for success in all areas of school life. It will also help to establish an understanding of sentence and story structure and to enrich vocabulary. In line with our topics, some of the books we will be reading are *The Colour Monster Goes to School*, *Elmer*, *The Growing Story* and *Funnybones* in term 1, and *The Sea Saw*, *When Grandad Was a Penguin*, *Peace at Last*, *Owl Babies* and *Goldilocks and the Three Bears* in term 2.

In early writing, we will be offering the children lots of opportunities and reasons to write in a variety of contexts, encouraging them to give meaning to the marks that they make. We will be developing listening and speaking skills in preparation for finding our own storytelling voices, and developing understanding that thoughts can be written down. We will be focusing on correct letter formation when writing our names. Some children (as appropriate) will begin forming letters or words in their writing and learning to correctly spell and write simple key words.

Phonics and Reading

In phonics, we are following Twinkl's validated scheme. We will begin with a focus on developing listening and attention skills, ensuring the children are attuned to the sounds around them and ready to begin developing oral blending and segmenting skills, before going on to learn our first six letters: s, a, t, p, i, n. Once the children know and recognise these they can begin to read some cvc (consonant, vowel, consonant) words, such as pin, sat, pat, tap. Each Friday, the week's new sounds will be put in the children's book bags for you to practise with them at home.

We place a great emphasis on early reading in school and at home. We will begin allocating and sending home reading books shortly, once the children have had a chance to settle in and phonics is well underway. At first, these books will be wordless.—please encourage your child to hold the book correctly, look at the front cover, turn the pages, and talk about what is happening on each page. As our phonics knowledge progresses, the children will be allocated books that align to the sounds they have learnt in class.

We do not have formal homework in Dallington Class, but we do ask that you read with your child every day if possible. If you find they are just too tired to read their school book, then please do share a favourite story with them instead.

Maths

In maths, our focus is on developing a deep understanding of number and numerical pattern, which will give the children a strong foundation for mathematics. This term, we will be developing our subitising and counting skills, and will be exploring the composition of numbers within five, learning to spot smaller numbers 'hiding' inside larger numbers. We will begin to compare sets of objects and use the language of comparison in learning and play.

We will be encouraging the children to spot numbers in their environment to help them identify and understand their everyday use. We would be grateful if you could do the same when the children are at home with you, at the supermarket, or going about your day-to-day lives.

Understanding the World

The children will be taking part in many topic-related activities that will help develop their understanding of the world. These will include: drawing around each other on large sheets of paper; drawing and writing about our families, homes and pets; drawing maps of our journey to school; finding out more about where we live and our school through first-hand observational walks and investigations within the school grounds.

Expressive Arts and Design

We encourage the children to be imaginative and to explore and use different media and materials every day. Planned activities include: finding out about our skeletons and using cotton buds to make pictures; decorating a large cut out of ourselves using wool, felt and other materials; studying our faces and creating our self portrait; and making paper plate faces using fruit and vegetables. The children will also be able to express their ideas through dance and music and through role play opportunity in our home corner and play house.

RE

In term one, we will be thinking about belonging and what makes us special. In term 2, as Christmas starts to approach, we will be exploring why Christians perform Nativity plays.

Outdoor learning

We plan to be outside as much as possible, come rain or shine, so please do ensure your child has a waterproof coat or puddle suit and a named pair of wellington boots in school every day. We are so fortunate to have such a beautiful setting, and we will enjoy some autumn walks around the school grounds to observe the subtle changes as a new season begins.

Our learning is very hands on and as a result the children can be rather messy at the end of the day. We are very grateful for your understanding!