

# Welcome to Early Years at Nova!

Welcome to term 1! We have had a wonderful start to our school year, and can't wait for all the learning ahead of us.



The children have loved exploring their new environments, and have already started making new friends, establishing new routines and learning new skills.

## Seesaw

We have started using Seesaw to keep you in the loop with your child's learning. We are finding it very useful and have heard great feedback from some parents about using it at home. Don't forget to download the Seesaw Family app to take a look at what your child has been up to! If you have any questions about accessing the app, please don't hesitate to give us a call.



Don't forget to send in the brilliant things your child does at home and we can include this in their learning journey too!

## PE

We will be starting our PE lessons in a couple of weeks. Please ensure your child has a [NAMED kit](#) on their peg, ready for [PE days](#).

Both classes will do PE on a [Thursday and Friday](#)

It may also benefit your child if they practise doing their own buttons up and putting their own shoes on in the morning before school – if they aren't already. It's a super learning opportunity to practise those fine motor skills.

## Phonics

This term, we are starting our phonics with phase 1. This encourages the children to distinguish the sounds around them and develop a whole range of skills they will need for when they start reading and writing. We have recorded a video to help you understand the phase and give you some ideas of what to do at home, this will be uploaded shortly so keep your eyes peeled! The next page of the newsletter also gives you some ideas of what you can do at home to support your child's learning of phase 1 phonics.

## Phase 1 phonics examples...

**Nature walk** – Explain you will be listening for sounds, in a woodland area which is safe. Listen in wonder and ask open questions starting with what, where, how, why, when... Model writing on the clipboard the sounds you can hear and encourage children to draw pictures if appropriate.

**Musical statues with a twist** - Play their favourite music, ask them to clap and dance to the music listening to the beat, when the music stop strike a pose and freeze.

**Read a rhyming book** – Pause just before you say the rhyming word to see if they can shout it out, anything will go.

**Walk in the outside** – Pick a sound out of a hat, take a Dictaphone on a walk and record things that start with a certain sound. Count how many things you found when you return. You could keep a chart and do this each day.

**Shopping bag** – Play the game 'I went to the shop and I bought...' using a shopping bag and objects. Each item must be recalled in order.

**Sound lotto game** – Soundtracks game and farm lotto games are excellent fun to play and teach children many other skills too.

**Sound story time** – read a story and ask your child to play an instrument that they choose to make a sound of something in the story.

**I spy** – Take turns to play I spy with my little eye with the sounds.

**Tongue twisters** – Give yourself a name with a tongue twister i.e. Silly, special, sunshiney Sam! Help your child to come up with theirs. Use their tongue twister name when calling out their name going forward.

**Dress up** – Put some dressing up items into a bag. Child to pull out items e.g. hat. If they can tell you the initial sound they can put it on.

**What's in the box** – Have a box with some items in you can sound out. Say "Inside the box is a h-a-t". Can they tell you what is in the box? Have a look if they are right. Repeat with other objects.

**Can you find** – Hide some CVC objects around the room or outside, ask your child to find the object but say it in sound talk or using robot arms to segment the word.

**Animal sounds** – Put some farm animals in a bag, pick one and when they do they have to make the sound that animals makes.

**Sounds like** - Ask your child to find an object in the room i.e. Car. Can you find another object in the room that starts with the same sound i.e. Cup?

Thank you for all of your support during the transition period. We appreciate it feels quite long but we fully believe it is very beneficial for the children and will help them immensely when they start full time.

Mrs Bacon and Miss Winter 😊