



# ARC - Koala class

## Autumn Term 2021

We hope you have all had a great summer break, and welcome back to school for Autumn term. This year we have four children returning from last year and two new children joining us in the ARC.

Our theme for the Autumn term is “Who am I?” The children will think about their world—their families, belonging to school, their friends, as well as their bodies, feelings and their senses. We would greatly appreciate it if you could send some photos of themselves as babies, and also of their family members, which will help the children to talk about them.

## Useful Reminders

**Class Dojo:** We will use the Class Dojo App to post information and updates about life in our class.

You can comment on posts and use the message function to communicate **essential** information to teachers.

**Please note: Absences must be reported by telephone to the main school office, not by Dojo to class teachers.**

**Communication:** We will use a combination of home school diaries, class Dojo and telephone calls to communicate about your child. You can also write in their home school diaries and teachers will be available to speak by telephone before or after the school day.

**Uniforms and Coats:** Please remember to put your child's name in their school clothes as this helps us to make sure they have all their belongings at the end of the day.

**Reading:** The children will be bringing a library pack home to enjoy sharing with you. Please record in the yellow book how your child and you enjoyed the stories and how your child interacted with the books, looking at the pictures, or telling parts of the story for example. Once you have shared the book and any activities, please return the pack to school and your child will bring a new pack home.

**Coats:** The children will be playing outside every day so please ensure your child has a warm coat during the Winter. They would also enjoy having gloves to keep their hands warm. We have waterproofs and wellies for wet days.

**Spare clothes:** It is helpful for your child to have a spare set of clothes including socks and underpants in their bag in case of toilet accidents, falling over in mud or getting wet playing in the water. We are also grateful for any donations of clothes your child has grown out of and no longer needs.

**PE Kit:** The children will have PE kit supplied by school which will be kept in the classroom.

**School resources:** From time to time the children bring home games and resources to help them to learn at home. They also sometimes bring home school toys that they have in their pockets. I would be very grateful if you would kindly return any school resources after you have used them at home.

## Here are some of the things we are planning to do this term.

<b>Reading</b>	We love reading in Koalas! Every day the children choose a book to share with an adult. We read and talk about picture books and the children enjoy sharing and joining in with familiar stories. Many of our topics and themes start from stories, to foster an early love of stories and books, and to develop pre reading skills looking at pictures, retelling favourite stories and acting out elements from stories in their play. When they become ready they will begin to learn to recognise letters and their sounds and follow the Read, Write Inc phonics programme in school.
<b>Writing</b>	The children develop their writing muscles by doing Dough Gym and a variety of fine motor and strengthening activities. There are many opportunities for the children to make marks, draw, colour and develop pre writing skills. During play and planned activities we encourage the children to "write" for a purpose. The early stage is making marks to write their name, make shopping lists and labels for their pictures. As the children develop they begin to follow the Read, Write Inc program in school.
<b>Maths</b>	The ARC environment is set up to provide lots of opportunities to develop maths skills through play. We also have planned activities to build skills such as counting, reading and writing numerals, making and combining sets of objects, finding one more than a number, recognising shapes, measuring and comparing weights, length and capacity.
<b>Speaking, listening and Communicating</b>	Within Koalas the children are developing their communication skills through play, planned activities and group times. They have adult play partners to model positive communication with their peers. The children are beginning to learn how to listen to, and follow, instructions. We use visual symbols to help the children identify how they are feeling and to communicate this to others.
<b>Turn Taking and Social Interaction</b>	Within Koalas, we provide daily opportunities for the children to share, take turns and respond to the needs of others. These are important life skills and we model turn taking and cooperation. The children enjoy opportunities to work together and this can provide some really useful opportunities to learn about how to resolve conflict.
<b>Physical Development/ P.E.</b>	The children all really enjoy active play and this helps build their balance and coordination. The children play outside frequently, and have opportunities to use bikes and scooters. Once the children settle they will visit the sports hall once per week for a PE lesson. Physical development also includes the children learning about their bodies and developing independence in following toilet, hygiene and eating routines, and to recognise how their bodies feel.
<b>Geography/ Science/ICT/ Understanding the World.</b>	This term we will be focusing on the children exploring the world around them, and learning about the children and teachers in their class, sharing pictures of their families and developing a sense of belonging at Bridgewater. The children will also learn to use their senses to explore the world around them through the themes of Autumn and festivals,.
<b>Expressive Arts and Design/ Art and design technology</b>	The children will be encouraged to be creative daily, with paint, collage, junk modelling, playdough, musical instruments and role play. Adults will play and work with children to develop their imagination through role play and small world area play, and the children will be encouraged to explore paints and art materials to make pictures and their own creations. We will sing songs daily in class, and once per week the children will join in an adult led music group exploring loud, quiet, fast and slow sounds and playing along to a beat.

If you have any questions or would like more information on the curriculum please do not hesitate to ask. ARC staff are available to speak to before and after school, or you can send a direct message on the message section of Class Dojo.

We love to hear about things the children do out of school, however small and to celebrate any achievements and new skills you have noticed at home. Please send any comments or photographs via Dojo messaging or via email to [liz.humby@bridgewater.newcastle.sch.uk](mailto:liz.humby@bridgewater.newcastle.sch.uk) or [jennifer.cox@bridgewater.newcastle.sch.uk](mailto:jennifer.cox@bridgewater.newcastle.sch.uk).

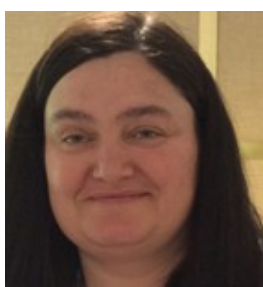
### ARC Staff



**Mrs Jenny Cox**  
Class Teacher  
Thursday and  
Friday



**Liz Humby**  
Class Teacher  
Monday, Tuesday,  
Wednesday



**Donna Anderson**  
SEND Teaching  
Assistant Full Time



**Amina Hussain**  
SEND Teaching  
Assistant  
Full Time



**Rose Gethings**  
Lunchtime Supervisor  
Supports in  
classroom regularly.