



Reception Autumn Term News 2022

Dear Reception Parents, Carers and Friends,

It has been a fantastic start to the year! The children have simply loved exploring their new classroom and, as a result, they have settled in beautifully. They arrive happy and ready to learn, which is wonderful to see.

Our Morning Routine

Thank you for your continued support in the mornings in helping the children become more familiar with their new class routine. The playground opens at 8.30 and the door to the Reception classroom opens at 8.40. The children will need to find their photo and stick this on the 'Self Registration' board. Children will also need to place their lunch box in the lunch box and their labelled water bottle and snack in the correct trays. After hanging up their belongings, the children will then be encouraged to engage in activities until 9:00am when we will get ready for focussed carpet time.

What will we be learning?

This term, the children will be learning all about themselves; discussing their likes and dislikes, school life, and similarities and differences with each other. We will then move into our 'Autumn' topic and learn about different celebrations coming up in the year.

Here is an overview of our subject focuses for the term:

Personal, Emotional and Social Development - The important focus for us this half term is making sure that all the children are settled, happy and ready to learn. We will be following the Jigsaw unit 'Being me in my world' which teaches children about respecting others' feelings and problem solving. Sharing and turn taking will be practised through small group games and modelled by adults. The children will then be able to apply these skills to their future learning experiences.

Communication and Language – Developing children's communication and language skills is at the heart of everything that we do in Reception. We provide open-ended resources and opportunities for collaborative play, as well as role play and small world areas, which enhance children's speaking and listening skills. This term we will be using 'Wellcomm' to enhance children's understanding and vocabulary in specific areas as well as promoting good all round communication skills. We will be introducing 'Drawing club' into our provision to also enrich language skills and immerse children into a world full of imagination.

Physical Development – In Reception, we are fortunate enough to have Physical Literacy coaches who come in to deliver planned sessions twice a week for the class. The activities are not only fun and exciting but they are well-planned aim to develop children's general gross motor skills and balance. This will enhance their skill level and ability in all areas. Please note that our PE sessions will be on **Wednesday** and **Friday**. The children can come to school in their PE kit on these days.

In order to help the children develop in their fine motor skills, we also provide a wide range of activities in the classroom such as play dough, threading and pegs, and a carpentry table to allow the children to further develop in their physical skills and use different tools.

Swimming - some children will be starting their swimming lessons very soon where they will be visiting Le Mourier swimming centre on a Thursday morning to develop in their swimming and confidence in the water. Please can children come into school in their PE kit if it is their swimming day. Letters have been handed to the parents of group one who will start on Thursday 22nd September for 10 weeks. Group 2 will be informed when their start date is confirmed in the spring term.

Literacy – This year, there will be a big focus on learning our letter sounds (Phase 2 and Phase 3 of Letter Sounds). Phonics will be through a mixture of games, adults interacting with the children in play and focused small group and whole class teaching. If you are unsure of the sounds each letter makes there is a video you can watch at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ksblMiliA8> or feel free to ask one of us. We strongly encourage that children are using these sounds at home so that they recognise these when reading and identify sounds in words as they read.

In terms of their reading, the children will have access to a variety of books and will be encouraged to talk about different parts of the books; front cover, back cover, title, blurb, characters and setting. **Please ensure that your child has plenty of opportunities to read at home; this is so important to aiding them in their learning development.**

There will also be lots of opportunities planned for your children to write through play and record their ideas through support. Good writing and letter formations will be modelled by adults so children can apply this too.

Mathematics – In Maths, we will be focussing on refining the children's subitising and counting skills and ensuring that they can understand the value of numbers. We are already noticing that the children enjoy counting and we will be helping them to secure in their counting to 10 and understanding how numbers to 10 work (number sense). The children will also be

developing in their number formation and they will be practising writing their numbers correctly in many different ways, through playdough, whiteboards, sand, chalk etc.

There will be lots of opportunities for the children to apply their understanding of number value in the classroom through various concrete and visual resources. We will also be having lots of 'real-life' experiences so children can use their mathematical knowledge in real situations.

Understanding the World – We will be looking closely at the world around us and talking about the changes we can see in the outside environment. We will talk about changing colours and explore different ways of making this happen. For Harvest, we will learn about food from the farm to the table. We will be doing cooking and learning songs about Harvest, discussing healthy foods and encouraging this in our lunch boxes.

Expressive Arts and Design - In our 'Creative Area' in the classroom, the children will have the opportunity to paint, colour, create and use playdough to create and construct their own imaginative pieces of art. During this term, there will be a particular focus on children learning to mix their own colours and exploring different materials and textures.

Computing – In order to develop in their understanding of different technologies, the Reception children will be given access to a variety of technology this year. They will be visiting the Computer suite to learn about the different parts of a computer and they will also be developing in their skills of using an iPad for a specific purpose. All children will be reminded of the need to remain safe and responsible whilst using any form of technology.

Home-learning tasks and Spellings –

The reading programme is due to start soon and your child will be given a sounds book, sound mat and list of tricky words in their bookbag. We would greatly appreciate it if you could encourage your child to continue learning the letter sounds at home, thinking of words starting with these sounds. Reading books will follow as your child becomes ready. Please keep books and home learning in children's bookbags throughout the week so that these can be used at school, if needed. If at any time you have any questions, please do not hesitate to speak to us before or after school.

Tapestry (Online Learning Journal) – A letter and consent form is attached to this letter. We will send home your unique access code as soon as possible. It is very important that letters are returned for Tapestry, as your child cannot be added to Tapestry without your consent.

Other –

Wet weather gear

Children love to play outside, whatever the weather, so please could you bring in some waterproof clothes to be kept at school so that your child can go out and explore the outdoors in all weather.

Please can your child bring in:

1. Named waterproof trousers
2. A pair of named wellies.

Bookbags - Each child needs a book bag **with their name on.**

Name labels - **Please, please, please make sure everything is labelled!** We're sure you can appreciate that with 13 small children, all in matching clothes, it can be difficult to keep track of belongings so names on **all items** would be much appreciated. Thank you to those of you who have already labelled everything.

Trips- Trips are very important in a child's learning journey as they help the child to make connections between the world and their develop in their understanding of the things around them. Once the children are settled we will be arranging some local trips and we will give you notice of upcoming trips so look out for letters in book bags.

Finally, the Reception team would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support so far with the new term. We look forward to working with you and your child.

If you have any worries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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Mrs Dymond-Long, Mrs Serinet and Miss Fenney
The Reception Team

