



Reception Spring Term News 2024

Dear Reception Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year and a very warm welcome back! Since returning to school, the children have immersed themselves into their learning through play with learning traditional tales.

Our Morning Routine-

The children have become very familiar with our morning routine now, which is great to see! They are now able to independently put their belongings and snacks away as well as write their names to self-register themselves and complete their morning jobs; these are all wonderful skills that they have developed.

What will we be learning?

This term, the children will be exploring many exciting topics as well as continuing our love for traditional tales, modern classic stories and animations. We will also be looking at animals and growing as Spring approaches. Our teaching approach will continue to be child-centred, where we will cater our planning and teaching towards the children's interests and stories at the time. If your child has a particular interest or there is something happening in your family (a new baby, moving house, etc.) you think they would like to continue exploring at school, please let us know. We find that when the children are more engaged when their interests are tapped into, they are more likely to open themselves up to a variety of learning opportunities!

Reading Books

Reading books will be sent home, along with a Library book. These will be changed once a week on Wednesday so please make sure your child's books have been returned by Wednesday. Please listen to your children read their reading book as many times as possible. Repeating stories is really important for children's comprehension skills. Please encourage your child to talk about different parts of the books; front cover, back cover, title, blurb, characters and setting. They will also be developing in their sound recognition and segmenting and blending of words. We will soon be sending out the Phase 3 sound mats and new sight word lists for your child to continue practising at home. Please do spend time with your child practising these at home; the more familiar that your child becomes with these sounds and sight words, the more likely that they will recognise them when reading. If at any time you have questions, please feel free to speak to us before or after school.

It is important that the child reads the Home Reader by themselves, and that this book is not read to them.

You may read the child's library book to them.

Personal, Emotional and Social Development -

This half term, we will be following the Jigsaw unit, 'Dreams and Goals', which teaches children about challenges and perseverance. We will continue to practise sharing and turn taking through small group games and activities and through adult modelling. We will then be following the unit, 'Healthy Me', which is a fantastic topic all about ways that we can keep both our bodies and minds healthy. This particular unit is very important as it helps the children to become more aware of how they can make healthy choices in their lives.

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 be continuing to use 'Wellcomm' to enhance children's understanding and vocabulary in specific areas as well as promoting good all round communication skills.

Physical Development –

In our PE lessons, we will be continuing to develop in our gross motor skills and balance, co-ordination, learning how to use the space in the hall safely and playing lots of fun spatial awareness games. Please note that PE continues to be on Wednesday and Friday. 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 creative area to allow the children to further develop in their physical skills and use different tools.

Literacy –

Each week, we will focus on a traditional tale, adventure book or an animation as the focus for drawing club. Drawing club helps to develop children's imagination, increase vocabulary and has a huge impact on children's confidence. There will also be lots of opportunities planned for your children to write through play and record their ideas through support. We will also be developing the children further in their mark-making by encouraging them to write CVC words, sight words and phonetically plausible sentences, with confidence. Good writing and letter formations will be modelled by adults so children can apply this too.

Phonics -

Across the whole school we are continuing to use our phonics scheme called ELS (Essential Letters and Sounds). Here is a link below explaining ELS and a video on how to pronounce each sound; <https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/reading/reading-schemes-oxford-levels/essential-letters-and-sounds/> ELS is a programme that teaches sounds in a certain order to build up children's learning gradually. 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.

Mathematics –

In Maths, we will be focussing on refining the children's counting skills and ensuring that they can understand the value of numbers as well as count these in the correct order. We are already noticing that the children enjoy counting and we will be helping them to secure in their counting and recognising patterns within 10 before moving onto numbers from 11-20. Your support at home would be much appreciated during this and any form of counting would be beneficial to your child's learning. 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.

We teach a skill called subitising which supports the development of calculation. We look closely at numbers and how we can represent them. As the children become more confident, we will move onto using 5 frames to develop their understanding further. 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. Children can also develop in their 'number sense' at home too, for example, through looking at groups of food items in the role play area or collections of small world figures etc.

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 also be looking at people who help us and finding out the different roles that people play in the community.

Expressive Arts and Design -

We will be focussing on using different types of media and skills to create pictures and paintings this term. The children will explore using a variety of resources and think of creative and original ways to use them (e.g. cutting, sticking, joining etc). Children will be encouraged to review and adapt their artwork as they go. The Home Corner will also be available each day so that the children can express themselves through role play and draw on their imaginations to act out real-life experiences.

Computing –

This Spring in Computing, Reception will be learning all about the art of photography. We will be looking in particular at how to use iPads and cameras so that we can become independent in using these in the environment to record our ideas.

Trips - We are hopeful to go a number of trips. We will let you know as and when these are planned.

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. We have some from last year but we are starting to get a bit too big for them!

Please can your child bring in:

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

Name labels.

Please, please, please make sure everything is labelled!

Do you have?

We are always grateful for any donations to help with our learning so if you have any used birthday cards, unwanted wrapping paper, ribbon, old & new envelopes, seeds, dry pasta, rice etc, it would be much appreciated!

We are quickly running out of clothes to change the children into, if they get wet whilst playing. If you have any clothes you no longer need (age 3+) or have clothes at home that you have borrowed from school – please return them – or send your child with a change of clothes to keep on their peg.

Finally, the Reception team would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support so far this year.

We look forward to continuing to work with you and your child.

If you have any worries and concerns, please do not hesitate to speak to us, before/after school or through email.

The Reception Team

