Reception Autumn Term Newsletter 2026

Dear Reception Parents, Carers and Friends,

What a pleasure it has been to welcome your children back to school. It has been a fantastic start to the year! The children have loved being back in the classroom and have settled in beautifully. They arrive each day happy, confident, and ready to learn, which has been 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 children will need to hang their coats up, place their lunch boxes and water bottles in the correct trays. Once in the classroom, they are encouraged to check in using our zones of regulations display and move their photos on the 'Self Registration' board. The children will then be free to choose their preferred activity until the register is called and the wake and shake routine starts.

What will we be learning?
In Foundation Stage, our teaching ethos is completely child-centred; we do not set out to teach any specific topic but are led by the children's interests! We find that when the children are more engaged and their interests are tapped into, they are more likely to open themselves up to a variety of learning opportunities. Yes, learning happens through play; however, adult-led activities can also enable the children to achieve more by learning more. This is evident in Phonics as the children are more attentive and focused, which helps them to retain more. This term, the children will be learning all about themselves; discussing their likes and dislikes, school life, and similarities and differences with each other.

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 SCARF unit "Me and My Relationships" which teaches children about what makes them special, the people close to them, 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 – Physical development is a key focus in Reception. We will provide a wide range of opportunities to help children develop both their gross and fine motor skills. We begin by strengthening the larger muscles through activities involving running, jumping, climbing, balancing and coordinated movement. Developing these core physical skills helps children build the strength, stability and control needed for more precise fine motor tasks, such as using scissors, manipulating small objects and eventually holding a pencil comfortably and confidently.
Children will also take part in weekly PE sessions using a variety of equipment to develop their coordination, balance, agility and overall physical confidence. Our activities are carefully planned to be both engaging and purposeful, ensuring that children continue to make progress in their physical development while having fun.
PE will take place on Wednesdays. Please ensure your child comes to school wearing their PE kit on this day.

Literacy – Each week, the class will be presented with either a traditional tale, adventure book, or an animation, and these key focus texts will be the cornerstone for Drawing Club. Drawing club helps to develop children's imagination, increase vocabulary, and has a huge impact on children's confidence. We will continue our Phonics journey with Essential Letters and Sounds and support the children to become fantastic readers and writers. Here is a link 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 recognize 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, setting, author, and illustrator. They will also be developing in their sound recognition and segmenting and blending of words. Please ensure that your child has plenty of opportunities to read at

home; this is so important for their learning development. 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 form letters correctly, practise tracing over their names, copying them before becoming more confident and writing them independently.

Mathematics – In Maths, we follow **White Rose Maths**. This term, the children will be developing their early mathematical understanding through matching, sorting and comparing objects, as well as exploring numbers to 5 first then to 8. We will be helping them to recognise, count and represent quantities, develop their subitising skills and gain a secure understanding of how numbers to 8 are made up. The children will also be developing their number formation and will practise writing numbers in a variety of ways, including using playdough, whiteboards, sand and chalk. There will be lots of opportunities for the children to apply their mathematical learning through practical activities, play and real-life experiences using a range of concrete and visual resources.

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 cooking and learning songs about Harvest, discussing healthy foods and encouraging this in our lunch boxes and snacks.

Expressive Arts and Design – 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 use scissors correctly, mixing their own colours and exploring different materials and textures. We will learn about various artists and use their artistic techniques. We are also delighted that our school Art Lead will deliver dedicated art sessions throughout the year, providing fun, inspiring, and highly creative opportunities for the children to develop their artistic skills, imagination, and self-expression

Forest School– Our Forest School Day is on Friday afternoon. This means that children can wear old clothes and bring wellies or old shoes to wear when we go to Forest School.

Trips– We will keep you updated on future trips.

Home-learning tasks– Please ensure to read with your child daily for at least 15 minutes. This will expose them to a wider range of vocabulary and enable them to spend quality time with you. As discussed during parents' evening, we would greatly appreciate it if you could encourage your child to continue learning the letter sounds at home, practise letter formation, and have a go at writing words/sentences. Reading books will be sent home every Wednesday. Please keep them 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.

Lending Library – Children will be able to borrow a book each week to enjoy at home with you. Please return books on Wednesdays so that a new one can be chosen. We would also like to invite parents to join us every **Friday morning** from **8:30am** to **8:50am** for a special reading session, giving you the opportunity to share and enjoy a book with your child before the start of the school day.

Tapestry (Online Learning Journal) –This year, we will be moving from Seesaw to Tapestry, our new online learning journal. Tapestry will enable us to share your child's learning experiences, achievements, and special moments with you throughout the year. Further information, including details on how to access your account, will be sent home shortly. Thank you for your patience while we set up the system. We are excited to share your child's learning journey with you through Tapestry. Tapestry provides a wonderful opportunity to strengthen the partnership between home and school. The children love seeing their photos and learning shared on the big screen, and we encourage families to contribute observations and photos from home too.

Name labels– Please, please, please make sure everything is labelled! 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.

Packed Lunches and Snacks – Please provide your child with a healthy, balanced packed lunch to help them stay focused and engaged throughout the day. We ask families for a contribution towards the daily snack provision, which includes a range of healthy snacks such as fruit, vegetables, crackers, cheese, pasta, eggs, pancakes, and toast. Many of these snacks are prepared with the children, helping to develop their independence and life skills. Parents who prefer not to contribute are welcome to provide their child with a healthy snack from home each day.

Do You Have Any Donations to Spare? We are always grateful for donations that help enrich our learning environment. If you have any unwanted items such as used birthday cards, wrapping paper, ribbon, envelopes, junk modelling materials, spare clothes, dressing-up costumes, baby dolls, baby bottles, or dolls' clothes, we would be delighted to give them a new purpose in

our classroom. Any contributions, big or small, are very much appreciated.

Thank you for entrusting us with your children's education. Together, let's make this term a season of growth, discovery, and endless possibilities. If you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to speak to us, before or after school or email me at m.hida@grandsvaux.sch.je

Mrs Hida
EYFS Teacher & Lead