

Reception Newsletter

September 2023

Welcome to Reception! We hope that your child has enjoyed starting school and that they are beginning to feel settled. We have loved getting to know them this week and playing with them in our indoor and outdoor classrooms.

Staffing

The Reception class teachers are Mrs Johansen (Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday) and Mrs Britton (Mondays). We are very lucky to have lots of staff working with us in Reception this year. Miss Dinsdale and Mrs Hudson are our Teaching Assistants and Mr Littlefair will teach the children in P.E.

Read, Write, Inc.

Children will soon begin to be taught sounds and they will be sent home daily with the sound that they have learnt. It would be great if you could ask your child what the sound is and ask them to attempt to write it - at this stage we don't expect perfect formation, we just encourage them to have a go! It doesn't matter if the sound takes up a whole page or if it is the size of the example. If your child struggles to write it, they could use their finger to write it in the air, on their hand or on your back!

Reading Books

Children will not be bringing reading books home until they have reached the level where they begin to read books in our Read, Write, Inc lessons - a separate letter will be sent when your child is ready. It important to read stories to your child and our book lending library will begin next Tuesday.

Baking

We often do baking and cooking sessions - the groups will change every week and all children will have a turn!

P.E

Our P.E. days are **Friday** and **Monday**. Children can wear their PE Kits to school on Fridays and will keep these on for the day so please account for the weather as children spend lots of time outside. We ask that children do not wear jewellery (including earrings) and that long hair is tied up.

Water Bottles

We encourage the children to drink lots of water every day. If you haven't already done so, please could you send your child to school with a water bottle, or you can buy one from the office for £2. These will be kept in school (emptied and refilled daily) and washed in the dishwasher each Friday.

Jumpers and Book Bags

We ask that children wear their school jumper or cardigan each day as we have doors and windows open as part of our access to our outdoor classroom. It's also important that children bring a bag to school each day so that they can bring letters and their work home easily.

How can you help at home?

In general:

- Encourage independence - putting their own coat on, doing up the zip, putting own shoes and socks on.
- going to the toilet independently, flushing the chain and washing their hands.
- walking, running, skipping and dodging.

For Literacy:

- share stories together; talk about the story, characters and setting.
- reading to your child regularly - just enjoying stories so that they get used to hearing storybook language.
- helping them to write their names for a purpose - in cards for relatives or postcards home from holidays.
- practise reading and writing the sounds they bring home.
- play games like 'I spy' to hear the first sound in words e.g. cat - c, dog - d etc.

For Maths:

- recognising numbers on buses, front doors, prices in shops.
- Counting objects e.g. apples in the fruit bowl, biscuits in the tin (to 10).
- describing shapes such as triangle, cube, sphere, curved, straight, corner, edge etc.
- counting to 20.

For Understanding the World/Expressive Arts and Design:

- talking about change - seasons of the year, eggs cooking, ice or chocolate melting.
- noticing how you celebrate certain festivals and how others celebrate them differently - birthday and Christmas traditions in your house and others' houses - Easter, Eid, Chinese New Year - any other festivals that you celebrate.
- singing songs and nursery rhymes.
- making "music" with real instruments or pots and pans with a wooden spoon - maybe in the garden or when someone else is looking after them!

Websites:

If you would like to use some websites to support your child then you can type these into google and the website should come up!

- [Phonics play pick a picture](#): good for reading words - you can sound out for your child to say what word it is e.g. you say c-a-t and they tell you 'cat' and choose the picture.
- [BBC schools counting](#): this will bring up lots of links to counting rhymes and songs you can sing at home.
- [BBC stories](#): this will take you to the BBC website where you can choose stories to share at home.
- [Topmarks Maths](#): lots of brilliant Maths games - the counting games are especially good.
- [CBeebies Number Blocks](#)

And finally...

Parent partnership is really important in the early years- please let us know how your child is feeling and anything they are learning at home. If you have any queries, or would like to come in and help, please let us know.

Mrs Johansen and Mrs Britton