

Reception Newsletter

Summer 2021

Welcome to our Summer term newsletter! Once again, we hope this provides you with an insight into the learning that has been happening in Reception and what we have in store for the Summer. We will also remind you of a few key dates to be aware of this term.

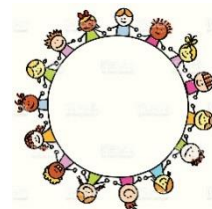
Spring term was a funny term; the mix of learning in school and at home has kept us on our toes! It was such a happy day when we welcomed back all of our children into school. The children have been remarkably resilient to change - we are very proud of how well the children dealt with the ever changing circumstances.



Personal, Social and Emotional Development

The children have well established routines and are now very comfortable with the school day. We are having a big push on the children taking responsibility for themselves, learning to be independent in their learning and organising themselves appropriately. We are taking time to re-iterate rules, encouraging the children to make good choices.

As summer term progresses, we are thinking about the transition into Year 1. We will be providing opportunities for the children to spend time with the Year 1 staff, in their new classrooms and discussing with the children the differences they may find. The way in which we organise our school day in Reception will gradually change, as we begin to mirror routines in Year 1 - we are confident the children will take this in their stride.



Communication and Language

The children have become skilled listeners and communicators. We will continue to build upon these skills through circle times, small group games and stories. Mrs Brushett has been busy putting together some lovely activities and game suggestions that will come out to you every Thursday via Tapestry - why not try some out at home?

We will also think more carefully about using and responding to 'how' and 'why' questions, to develop understanding in questioning.



Physical Development

The children will continue to take part in two P.E. session every week. This term the children will be practicing their climbing skills on larger equipment and later they will be preparing for Sports Day in some Athletics sessions! We are pleased the weather has been mainly dry, allowing us more opportunity to deliver PE lessons outdoors - glorious!

We continue to develop our fine motor skills both in our indoor and outdoor areas. We have enjoyed providing lots of fun practical 'fidgety finger' activities to really refine and develop our small, fine motor skills.

A quick thank you - we tend to have to do a lot of reminding about attending school on PE days in PE kit; this year, we have had do very little reminding! Thank you for being organised with appropriate clothing, facilitating all children to get stuck in!



Literacy

We are continuing with our daily RWI phonics session as we begin to introduce some challenging sounds, including digraphs, trigraphs and even some split digraphs in some instances - wow! We are looking for the children using these sounds with more independence in their writing. Our Literacy lessons will provide some wonderful opportunities to write about familiar stories, adapt these stories and also create some exciting stories of their own. We continue to read regularly with the children on a 1:1 basis, as well as providing books in as many places within the environment as possible, for the children to access freely. Please continue to read with your children as much as you can - we cannot stress enough the benefit of this. Thank you for your support with this.



Mathematics

We are very impressed with the children's developing skills in Maths. This term we will be providing many different activities with a focus on doubling, halving and sharing, and in Shape Space Measure we will be looking at distance, time and capacity.

The summer provides wonderful opportunity for the children to engage in measuring with water outdoors. Our outdoor provision will enable lots of experimenting and exploring with containers and water - we all know our children learn best when they are having a ball!

Understanding of the World



We have already been exploring mini beasts within the outdoor environment - this has also been a wonderful opportunity to talk about looking after the world, and the creatures that live in it. We are excited that we will soon be receiving some caterpillars - the children will be responsible for caring for them, as we observe the changes that occur, before releasing them into their natural habitat. This will also lead onto looking at lifecycles of other creatures and plants.

The children will be planting sunflowers seeds in class, which will then come home. We will be running a competition to see who can grow the tallest sunflower, with an exciting prize for the winner! Please send a photograph of your sunflower, with a measurement in cm to your child's Tapestry journal - let's hope you have green fingers! Good luck!

In technology, we will continue to introduce new programs and apps on the computers and iPads. We will also be talking about how to use the internet safely.



Expressive Arts and Design

Our creative stations offer the children the opportunity to create using a variety of media and tools - we love seeing the children use different skills to create an impressive range of pictures and models.

With the imminent arrival of a new outdoor speaker, we hope to enjoy many more dance, music and movement shows. Summer term tends to be our proudest term, as we reflect back on the confidence the children have developed throughout the year - particularly evident as we observe the children expressive themselves confidently and unapologetically on our home made stage!

We haven't been able to offer dressing up outfits due to Covid guidance - we hope that this guidance will have changed just in time for the children to relish these, before the summer holiday!

Hot weather

As summer weather approaches, we would like to advise that long lasting sun cream is applied in the morning prior school, and the children attend with a named sun hat.

We also encourage the children to bring in their own named water bottle, which we will refill during the day when necessary.

Thank you.

Home readers

Reading daily with your child is incredibly important and beneficial. Please do remember to jot down in their reading log, when you have read together. Please let your child's class teacher know if you are struggling to engage them in reading - we have lots of handy tips and hints!

Thank you.