

Reception Newsletter

Autumn 2020

Welcome to the first Reception newsletter of the year! Newsletters are emailed every term and will give you a little insight into what the children will be learning across all of the areas of the curriculum. We also use it to give reminders or further details about school activities and events.

We have been extremely impressed with how well all of the children have settled into school life, especially given the fact that some of our children have not been in a childcare setting for a very long time. They have been coming into school with very little support and it is great to see them finding their pegs and lockers independently! We would like to thank you for your support in helping the children start their journey in Reception so confidently.

A little about how we learn...

Curriculum

In Early Years, we no longer follow 'topics', instead we follow the interests of our children. We are always amazed with the engagement it facilitates and so this year we will continue with this approach. We have a 'planning meeting' weekly with our children who tell us what they are interested in (last year saw a huge amount of unicorn and pirate interest!), we then plan activities and lessons that are based around their interests.

We strongly believe in building independence in our children. Our environment enables the children to access resources freely, choose where they play for the majority of the day and manage their own risks.



Personal, Social and Emotional Development

The children will be getting to know one another and making new relationships as they settle into their new class. We will be discussing how to resolve conflicts and talking to each other about our abilities, strengths and things we find more challenging.

We will be talking about our school rules and discussing how to keep these rules when we are learning and playing.

Communication and Language



The children will be learning how to be a good listener in different situations including whole group and one to one interactions. They will be partaking in regular 'Circle Times' where they will be encouraged to talk about themselves and their experiences, as well as listen to others.

They will be using language to recreate roles and stories in their play and will be encouraged to listen and respond to the ideas of others.



Physical Development

The children will be taking part in a two P.E. sessions per week; these will take place on a Wednesday and Friday. Please send your child into school on these days wearing their PE clothes. There will be no requirement for PE kits to be left in school. We ask that you encourage your child to dress and undress independently. The children will mainly be working on spatial awareness and moving safely around obstacles.

As well as their P.E. sessions the children will be working on their physical skills every day. The children are able to access the outdoor equipment throughout the day and they will be taking part in a variety of activities to develop the strength and control needed to hold a pencil effectively for writing.



Literacy

The children will be taking part in daily Phonics sessions. Here they will be learning new sounds rapidly; the building blocks to help them read and write. We use a phonics program called 'Read, Write, Inc', our previous Reception classes loved these sessions and made super progress. The children will be using this knowledge to hear sounds in words and attempt to write them. We will also be focusing on teaching the children to write their names using well-formed letters.

We use an exciting program called 'Talk4Writing' to enhance our writing. The first story that Reception class will be exploring is 'Mr Wiggle and Mr Waggle'. This is a short story about two gentleman who go up and down lots of hills in search for each other; look out for a story map coming home with your child, which will hopefully enable them to retell the story with you. After learning the skill of orally retelling a story, the children will then be supported to change aspects of the story to create their very own version - we love how creative the children become!

We will also introduce a 'Story of the Day', where children will each have a turn in bringing in a favourite book from home - story sharing is incredibly important in sparking imagination and introducing some marvelous vocabulary. Look out for your child's invite!



Mathematics

The children will be partaking in a daily, practical Maths session. This term we will be focusing mainly on counting and number recognition. The children will be learning to count forwards and backwards, counting sets of objects with 1:1 correspondence and learning to write numerals with good formation. Following this, the children will be exploring 2D shapes: naming, describing using mathematical language, creating patterns and building models with shapes.



Understanding of the World

As well as exploring different cultures in our everyday provision, we will be following our children's interests to develop our learning in this area.

In technology, we will be learning to use programs on the iPads and classroom computers safely.



Expressive Arts and Design

Again, we will be following our children's interests in this area. We hope to incorporate the opportunity to explore textures and different media.

The children will be learning new songs and exploring the sounds made by a variety of percussion instruments as well as roleplaying well known stories.

The children will enjoy a weekly music session.

Home readers

Each child will receive a 'Home Readers Pack' the week commencing Monday 21st September. Within this pack you will find two reading books and reading record for you to note how your child got on.

These books may well be picture books without words; this is intentional and will allow your child to practice important story telling skills. Your child will be issued with new books on a Monday and these will need to be returned on Thursday to allow them to be "quarantined" before they are re-issued on Monday.

Reading Bug Challenge

We love to promote reading in any way we can at school. With this in mind, we are going to launch a Reading Challenge this term. If the children read 25 times at home and at school this half term we will reward them with a fluffy Reading Bug!

Get reading everyone!

Junk Modelling

We would love any small boxes (cereal box or smaller) to help the children build models.

Thank you!

Tapestry

Soon, you should all have access to Tapestry; this is our online system for logging observations of your child playing and learning at school. This gives you an insight into their time at school and their development. Tapestry also allows us to record teaching staff reading stories amongst other things for you to watch with your child at home. It also enables you to take observations at home, which is vital for us to build an all-round picture of the children and their progress. We would love to see what your child gets up to at home, as children sometimes demonstrate different skills in different environments. We look forward to seeing your photos and videos from home!

Oxford Owl Reading

Oxford Owl is a fantastic and FREE resource, where you can select reading books to read online with your child. You are required to create an account and set a password, which then allows you access to a substantial library of eBooks.

<https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/reading/>

Thank you for your support. The Reception Team.