

# Reception Newsletter

Spring 2021

**Welcome** to the second Reception newsletter of the year, albeit a little different to our last. With a split of children across both home and school, we will aim to set activities that can be adapted to either setting. As ever, our children's well-being is at the forefront, so our aim is to provide learning that can reflect a largely fun and play based/practical approach. We have a team of staff available Monday-Friday to support learners at home, so please do get in touch if required.



## Personal, Social and Emotional Development

During the last term, the children had formed great relationships with one another and the adults across the year group. We will continue to support the children in sharing, taking turns and resolving conflicts. Turn taking games at home would support this. The children will also be reflecting on themselves, the things that they are good at and setting themselves goals.

We will continue to reinforce our school rules and remind the children how to keep these rules when they are learning and playing. Children at home could devise their own set of 'house/home learning rules'.

## Communication and Language

The children are continuing to learn 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 given lots of opportunities to speak, widen their vocabulary and encouraged to use the correct tense.



At home, encourage your child to talk about something they love eg. a favourite toy or movie, including many details – you may need to model this first. If you have video calling facilities, perhaps call a friend or relative and ask your child to tell them about something specific eg. A picture they have drawn, how to make something simple in the kitchen such as a sandwich.



## Physical Development

The children will continue to take part in a weekly P.E. session; this will now be on a Friday only. This term the children will mainly be working on coordination and using small equipment.

As well as their P.E. session, the children work 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 lots of fine motor activities to develop the strength and control needed to hold a pencil effectively for writing.

For those at home, opportunities to get outdoors is essential; to walk, ride bikes or scooters and visit parks if we are permitted to do so, will facilitate the development of gross motor skills. Fine motor activities that you may find accessible at home – threading cheerios on not dried spaghetti, attaching pegs to an item, threading pipe cleaners through a colander, tracing shapes/ pictures, playdough.

## Literacy

The children will be taking part in daily Phonics sessions. Here they will be learning a new sound whether these are individual or digraphs (two letters that make one sound, for example 'sh'). The children will be using this knowledge to hear sounds in words and attempt to write them. Some children will even begin to write simple sentences using capital letters, full stops and finger spaces! As part of our English sessions, children will be reading non-fiction books and attempting to write labels, instructions, letters and simple reports. The children will also continue to learn to tell stories as part of our 'Talk for Writing' sessions. All phonics and literacy tasks will be available for children at home too.



## Mathematics

The children will continue to partake in a daily Maths session. This term we will carry on practicing accurate counting, number recognition and begin to apply these skills in basic addition and subtraction problems. We will also take a look at time; not only what a clock looks like, but also exploring what usually happens at different times of the day. Maths activities will be available for children at home.



## Understanding of the World

The children will continue to learn about the world around them; Spring is a great opportunity to look at changes in the environment and signs of new life. The pandemic will allow us to look closely at the different roles of people who are essential in keeping the world going.

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



## Expressive Arts and Design

The children will continue to access our many creative areas around Early Years where they are able to use a range of materials and tools to create anything their hearts desire! We will also be teaching skills such as colour mixing, sketching and model making. So, if you're at home, keep your food packaging for general imaginative crafting.

We regularly use apps to enhance the children's learning at school. We thought it might be helpful for you to use them with your children at home!

- Cbeebies - Get Creative, Playtime Island, Storytime **free**
- Hairy Letters (sound awareness and letter formation) **free**
  - Forest Phonics (age 4 - 7)
  - Dexteria Fine Motor Skill Development
- Bee-bot (directional language and programming) **free**
  - My Story School eBook Maker (literacy)
  - Little Digits (maths)
  - EduGuru Maths Games Age 3-5

Finally, we would like to say how much the children and staff miss the children at home! Remember we are always here to help. The school phones are operational during the day should you need to call for assistance. The class teacher email addresses are below; please don't hesitate to contact us.

RA – [l.williams@newtonleysprimary.org](mailto:l.williams@newtonleysprimary.org)

RB – [c.haylett@newtonleysprimary.org](mailto:c.haylett@newtonleysprimary.org)

RC – [v.wakeman@newtonleysprimary.org](mailto:v.wakeman@newtonleysprimary.org)

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We appreciate all that you are doing to help us guide your children through these unprecedented times. Thank you for your continued support, especially while many of you adapt to adding 'teacher' to your CV!