



Reception Class

Spring Newsletter 2021-2022



Welcome back to school following the Christmas break. We hope that you have had an enjoyable Christmas and send you our best wishes for the New Year. We hope you were able to enjoy the Nativity Play recording available on Google Classroom – if not, please contact the school office for further guidance on how to gain access. Sincere thanks from us all for the kind messages, cards and gifts we received at the end of last term. Although these are never expected, they are much appreciated.

The children have returned to school rested, full of positive learning energy and have got back into the swing of things quickly! We have slight changes in our teaching assistant support this term. Mrs Stell will be in class all day on Monday and Tuesday and Mrs Hodges will support on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

PE days continue to be Monday and Thursday, when children should come into school dressed in their PE kit. Also, please remember to keep reading books in book bags throughout the week, so that your child is ready for reading with an adult at any time. It is always best to keep water bottles out of book bags, as they have a tendency to leak and damage precious books. We look forward to supporting your child's learning in Terms 3 & 4 and thank you for your anticipated support. Mrs Allen and Ms Kirby

Communication and Language



Our classroom is language rich and we aim to expand the children's vocabulary in everything that we do. If the children are hearing new and exciting words, they are more likely to use them in their speech independently and in their writing. We aim to support the children to be confident, articulate talkers who naturally connect their ideas together when speaking. We teach them to be aware of the listener and take turns to talk. Show and Tell will begin this term. More details to follow.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

The children are very good at talking about the rules and routines that we have in class and know what they can do to be a kind friend. We will focus on how to support the children to resolve conflicts and find compromises independently. We want the children to feel confident to try new activities and to challenge themselves and for them to talk about their own likes and dislikes.



Physical Development

In PE the children will continue to develop their gym skills, working within the themes of body shape and travel. We will focus on increasing our body control and explore different ways of travelling in floor work and on the apparatus. Our Dance unit in term 4 provides an opportunity for the children to explore and extend movement skills in response to music, introduced in term 2. We have seen a big improvement in the children's gross motor co-ordination e.g. catching, and will now refine these skills further, e.g. throwing and catching with a partner or using a bat and ball. In class, we will continue to focus on developing fine motor skills, including encouraging the children to use the correct pencil grip for writing and use scissors to cut efficiently.



Religious Education

In RE this term, From Galilee to Jerusalem, we have already been learning about the Christmas story and the Wise Men's visit to Jesus. We will progress to learning about the importance of Jesus for Christians and about significant events in Jesus' childhood, e.g. being lost in the temple. In Term 4 we will learn about Lent and Holy Week as we prepare for Easter. Both terms explore the common theme of how we can show love for God and love for each other in our daily lives.



Literacy



The children will have been taught all of the sounds required for Reception by the middle of Term 3 and we will continue to revise and apply our knowledge to read and write words and sentences. Thank you for supporting your child at home – it makes a **massive** difference! Please continue to practise sounds and sight words to help your child to recall these quickly for reading and writing. It is imperative that children develop good habits now with regard to letter formation as incorrect formation becomes harder to undo as time goes on. Please practise writing letters correctly at home. The children will be using *The Gingerbread Man*, *The Magic Paintbrush*, *Blue Penguin* and *Oliver's Vegetables* as the main story stimuli for writing this term.

Maths



Almost all children are secure in their recognition of numbers up to 10, with many recognising to 20 (and beyond) already. The children will be learning to add and take away and will consolidate their counting skills to 20. We will begin to learn key addition and subtraction facts for numbers to at least 5 e.g. $1+4 = 5$ so $5-4=1$ and look for patterns in number. We will be asking you to practise this at home too. This term we will also be learning language associated with measures, e.g. tall, shorter, longest, light, heavy, to help children to compare and order objects. Term 3 has started with counting and ordering numbers revision and a focus on putting events in time order.



Understanding the World

We have started this term by looking for signs of Winter. We will look at changes through ice exploration- it is good to see some frosty mornings this week! We will learn about a contrasting cold location and the festivals of Chinese New Year and Shrove Tuesday. In Term 4 we will focus on keeping our bodies healthy, look for signs of Spring and learn about plant growth.



Expressive Arts and Design

The children will be expected to “plan” their creations, e.g. knowing what they want to create in advance, and to explain their choices with regard to materials, tools and colours used. The collection of songs we have learned is growing and the children love to express how different music makes them feel through dance.



How to support your child's learning at home:

- Please **read at home daily** with your child and practise words and sounds. Children who practise at home are more secure in their knowledge and are progressing more quickly than those who do not practise. Please also ensure that you record in the ‘Reading Record Book’ each time that you read.
- Ask your child questions about their books to make sure that they understand it, e.g. Why do you think they did that? Where do you think they are going?
- Practise writing simple words, e.g. dog, pet, sun, or sentences, e.g. The dog can jump. using the sounds we have learnt
- Practise recognising numbers up to 20 (and beyond, if confident) and saying one more/less than numbers up to 20
- **Please keep uploading photos, comments and videos to Tapestry – we love seeing your child's home learning** 😊

Other ways you can help:

- If your child is unable to fasten their coat, please, please practise at home **it's part of the curriculum!**
- Teach your child how to sort out clothes that are inside out, e.g. sleeves on a cardigan/jumper/coat
- Ensure you have access to your Tapestry account and upload home observations to Tapestry so that we can share your child's home learning.

