



Reception Class

Spring Newsletter 2023-2024



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 also hope you enjoyed the Nativity Play at the end of last term- the children were wonderful and should be very proud of their efforts. 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!

PE days continue to be Monday and Tuesday, when children should come into school dressed in their PE kit. Also, please remember to keep reading and phoneme 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. Miss Blackford

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. Through whole class book talk sessions, we focus on listening to stories, asking and answering questions and orally rehearsing to develop our vocabulary. Show and Tell has started this term with the introduction of Barnaby Bear. Barnaby will be coming home with one child each week. Please see Tapestry for further information.

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. The theme for Term 3 is "Dreams and Goals!" Throughout this theme we will be focusing on; "Challenges, Never giving up, Setting a Goal, Obstacles and Support, Flight to the future, Achieving our goals".



Physical Development



In PE the children will focus on Gymnastics on Mondays, learning ways we can explore and extend movement skills. In Games on Tuesdays, we have seen an 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 safely and effectively.

Please remember, tape must be worn to cover pierced ears or earrings removed and left at home on PE days.

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 end of Term 4 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 correct as time goes on. Please practise writing letters correctly at home. We will be using *The Magic Paintbrush*, *Supertato* and *Oliver's Vegetables* as the main story stimuli for writing this term.

Maths



Many of the children are secure in their recognition of numbers up to 5, with many recognising to 10 (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 $5-4=1$ using the part part whole model to support addition and subtraction and look for patterns in number. We will be asking you to practise this at home too. This term we will also be revisiting language associated with measures, e.g. tall, shorter, longest, light, heavy, to help children to compare and order objects. Term 3 has started with a revision of counting and ordering numbers and subitise (recognise an amount without counting) to 5 and properties of 2D shapes.



Understanding the World

We have started this term by thinking about how we change as we grow. We will also observe signs of winter and look at changes through ice exploration. 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 learn 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 sight words and sounds. Children who regularly 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, to keep us informed. Children need to read their phonics book 4 times before we change it for a new one. Every day they read at home, it counts towards a read in our Class 'Reading Bug' challenge. When they reach a multiple of 50 reads, they choose their own book that they can keep at home.
- 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 run. using the sounds we have learnt.
- Practise recognising numbers up to 20 (and beyond, if confident) and saying one more/less to 10.

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.
- Please remember to **book your child's lunch online**, to save us valuable time in school at the start of the day.
- Ensure you have access to your Tapestry account. These are currently being updated with observations from term 2. Please ask if you do not have access.

