



# Reception Class

## Summer Term Newsletter April 2024



### Reception Class News

Dear Parents,

It is hard to believe we are in the final terms of your child's Reception year. The children have returned from the Easter break full of enthusiasm and energy and have made a good start on their learning this term. Please continue to support your child to regularly practise sounds and sight words, as well as word boxes and to read their reading book as often as possible, **ideally daily**, remembering also to talk about book content to help develop comprehension skills.

Our PE days remain as **Mondays and Tuesday**, with the children needing to wear their PE kit to school on these days. Please remember to cover piercings.

The children have worked really hard on their writing recently and I am really impressed with the writing challenges that have come back so far! Please can you ensure these are handed back in by 17<sup>th</sup> May so they can receive their certificates.

There are important dates coming up over the next two terms, including our Class Liturgy, Class assembly and Sports Day, so please ensure you reading the school Newsletter for updates on these.

Miss Blackford

#### Personal, Social and Emotional Development

This term we will be learning about 'Relationships' and talking about how to be a good friend. We will explore solving friendship problems, showing respect to others and how to help ourselves and others when we feel upset. In Term 6 our focus will be 'Changing Me'. We will also spend time talking about how we feel about moving to Year 1 and what we may be worried about or look forward to in our new class, as well as sharing memories of the best bits of our Reception year.



#### Communication and Language



Good communication and language skills are paramount to supporting the children's learning. Our classroom is 'language rich' and we aim to expand their vocabulary in all we do. Through sharing new and exciting words, we encourage the children to use these independently in their speech and writing. We are supporting them to be confident, articulate talkers who naturally connect their ideas when speaking. To support this, look out for the Show and Tell bag coming home with each child in turn. Details of what to do will be enclosed.

#### Physical Development

We will continue to support the children in developing their fine motor skills, including using the correct pencil grip and forming letters correctly and clearly.

We are very impressed with the children's handwriting skills. If your child chooses to write at home, please encourage them to use the correct letter formation, shown in their phoneme book. Please continue to support children with using scissors effectively as this is also part of the curriculum. The children's gross motor co-ordination continues to improve, e.g. catching, and we will be working to refine these skills further, e.g. throwing and catching with a partner or using a bat and ball. This term the children will practise athletics skills in readiness for Sports Day. Across terms 5 and 6, the children will also take part in Games and Gymnastics focus to further develop the skills introduced earlier in the year. On Tuesdays with the sports coach, children will continue to develop their skills involving hand-eye coordination.



#### Religious Education

Our current RE topic 'To the Ends of the Earth' focuses on the festivals of Easter and Pentecost. The term 6 focus, 'Life to the Full', explores what it is to be a good friend. We extend our learning about God being kind, gentle, merciful, loving and forgiving and think about how we can show these qualities in our friendships. We finish the term with an 'other faiths' focus. The children will learn about the importance of prayer and the mosque in the Muslim faith and the symbols that show people belong to the Sikh faith.





## Literacy

Our daily phonics lessons will focus on Phase 4 learning, to support the children's reading and writing skills. Please practise all sounds you know your child is unsure of, as well as sight words. There are no new sounds in Phase 4, with learning focusing on reading and writing longer words. Phase 4 sight words will be included in Phoneme Books. Our Literacy work this term will link learning to the traditional tales Jack and the Beanstalk, the Three Little Pigs and Little Red Riding Hood stories. In term 6 we will read The Hungry Caterpillar and will be focusing on minibeasts, including watching our own butterflies develop. Other texts include The Snail and the Whale and Traction Man and the Beach Odyssey, with settings providing a contrasting location to our own.

## Maths



In Number we will consolidate our counting and number knowledge within 20 and beyond. We will be continuing our learning about the concepts of doubling and halving and will also practise our sharing and grouping skills, using these to solve simple problems. The children will continue to explore the concepts of odd and even and time will be spent consolidating number and calculation skills in readiness for Year 1. In Shape, Space and Measures, the children will practise using positional language to describe where objects are in relation to other objects. They will be introduced to simple maps and plans and learn how to interpret these as well as creating simple maps of their own.



## Understanding the World

In term 5 we will focus on what plants need to grow well, as we plant and care for seeds. We will also learn about the lifecycle of a butterfly and care for some caterpillars in class. In term 6, we will look for signs of Summer in our school grounds. Later in the term, we will learn about living and working in a farm environment and end the term with a focus on the Seaside. We are in the process of planning a school visit to support this learning- more details to follow. The children will have access to technology, including the Beebots to support learning about position in Maths.



## Expressive Arts and Design

The children are 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. We will continue to develop their skills in this area, linking their creative outcomes to our learning themes and their interests. The collection of songs known by the children continues to grow and they enjoy using percussion instruments to accompany their singing. We will continue to develop an understanding of how different music makes us feel and respond.



## How to continue supporting your child's learning at home:

- Continue to practise all sounds you know your child finds tricky to remember
- Practise all Phase 2, 3 and new Phase 4 sight words in your child's Phoneme Book
- Practise reading **every day** and briefly log this in their Reading Record **DAILY**
- Frequent practise of phonic skills and reading at home makes a **massive** difference to progress and thank you to those families who make this a priority.
- Ask your child questions about their reading book to check their understanding, e.g. Why do you think they did that? Where do you think they are going? What will happen next?
- Practise finding 1 less, 1 more than any number within 10, then 20 and beyond, if appropriate
- Practise addition pairs for 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10. E.g.  $0+1=1$ ,  $1+0=1$ ;  $0+2=2$ ,  $1+1=2$  etc
- Practise counting in 2s to 20. 5s to 50 and 10s to 100

## Other ways you can help:

- **Always** send your child to school with their book bag and a water bottle.
- Please do not put water bottles in book bags in case of leaks!
- If your child has money for break-time toast please send exact change needed in a named purse/zip bag/envelope.
- As we head into the summer, on hot days remember to apply sun cream before school and please send your child to school with a hat.