

Welcome to Reception!

This letter gives information about the work we are undertaking this term, and ways in which you can share your child's development with us. You can also find this on the school website (address at the bottom of school headed paper) along with other information that we hope you will find useful. This section of the website is updated on a termly basis with information about activities and programmes of study for all children.

We have planned activities across the Early Years curriculum as follows:

Communication, Language and Literacy

Initially we shall be reviewing your child's current level of attainment in speaking, listening, recalling events and stories, reading and writing and undertaking a variety of assessment activities where appropriate. Alongside these we will continue to develop children's phonic knowledge and ability to form letters correctly. We will give priority to forming the letters that make up their name. Once they have mastered these they will build on the other letters. We would like to remind you that we do a selection of other handwriting activities in school on a regular basis but this is not always recordable in a book. These activities may include writing letters in the sand, using buckets and paintbrushes outside, whiteboards and pens and paint markers. The activities will be related to each child's individual needs. Whenever children write their name we will encourage correct formation and would appreciate it if you would do the same at home. Some children will be encouraged to use a pencil grip to support their fine motor skills. We will also be introducing the children to words through a mix of word recognition and word building. Please look out for the red and green words in their word tubs and refer to the leaflet 'Helping Your Child to Read' (in the book bag) to help them with practise.

Mathematics

This is another area which will be reviewed and in which assessment activities may be used. Children will be continuing to develop number skills, including work on ordering and comparing numbers, more and less, and an introduction to addition. Alongside these topics we shall focus on estimation, positional language and measure, comparing the mass of different objects. We will also be looking at 3d (solid) shapes - try looking around you on the way to school to see if your child can see cubes, spheres, cylinders and cones. They will be encouraged to use logical methods and mathematical language as they tackle new challenges.

Understanding the World

ICT is an important strand in this area, and we use the computers, tablets and interactive whiteboard to support all other areas of the curriculum. The computers will introduce interactive stories, mouse skills, number recognition and counting, and phonic activities. All children will be taught how to use the school digital cameras and ipads, so that they can use these with confidence to record their own work at times. We shall be looking at the nature and necessity of the Autumn season, largely through discussion and looking at picture books, and will then extend this to discuss and observe the changing seasons. We hope to have special visitors come to see us in the form of owls.

Expressive Arts and Design

Children will undertake a variety of activities using different techniques and media. They will use collage techniques and learn how to make repeating patterns. We will focus on autumn and harvest time and engage in a variety of individual and group activities. We will begin to learn some new songs and singing games in the Drama Hall.

Physical Development

Children are encouraged to take part in outdoor large scale physical activities on a regular basis, including a variety of wheeled toys and large blocks for building/climbing. Safety considerations will be emphasised to all children, both in these activities and when the children are introduced to the large apparatus in the Main Hall. Children will be observed in free play during early PE sessions so that we get a clear picture of each child's ability and level of confidence. Children will be encouraged to use their bodies to go under and over apparatus, using stretched and curled movements. We also plan to utilise the outdoor classroom which should provide some fantastic learning opportunities.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Starting school is a major event in any child's life, whether or not they have been to a nursery or other pre-school setting, and most children will be faced with a situation requiring much more independence and decision-making than ever before. Our aim is to encourage all children to make this transition as smoothly and happily as possible, developing confidence in understanding the rules and routines of school life. For many, the chance to stay at school for their lunch is a major step; for others, the requirement to play outside at break times can be daunting. We shall address all these issues alongside discussions on sharing, caring and making new friends.

Interactive Learning Diary (ILD)

As demonstrated at the parent meeting, your child's progress throughout the Foundation stage will be monitored through an on line diary. The staff will write observations of their learning and play which will be uploaded onto their diary. This can then be accessed by yourselves at home, via a log in system. You can also add comments and observations from home. This is one way in which you can contribute to our knowledge and understanding of your child as a "whole" person. Activities and experiences outside school can have a major impact on learning, and it is very helpful if we know what your child has been doing. If your child undertakes a new hobby or activity, or makes a significant step in their Social Development or any other area (eg. starts dancing lessons, helps a younger sibling, tidies their bedroom, speaks to an adult with whom they have previously been shy etc.), please add these to their ILD.

We will send further details out about this and ask for email addresses for those parents who have not already got log ins from our Nursery.

Our topic for this term will be 'Ourselves and People Who Help Us'. This will facilitate us to get to know each other as individuals and as a class. We will be sharing stories, talk-times, painting portraits and mark-marking information about ourselves. We hope to invite some visitors to support our theme.

The children will be bringing home a book bag containing a basic book that we would encourage you to share with your child on a daily basis. Please record this in their reading diary as it occurs. As phonics becomes part of our daily routine at school the children will each have a sound/word tub in their bags containing sounds and words that they have learned at school. Please practise these as often as possible to help

consolidate their learning. If you have any concerns or questions about phonics, please speak to one of the team.

We have two Early Years noticeboards on the wall near the black gates. We will aim to update these with relevant information as often as possible. You will also find photographs of our staffing team, to help you put faces to names.

We would greatly appreciate any offers of help in school, to hear readers, cook with small groups and support in activities and games. This does not need to be a full day, any time is appreciated. If you are interested please see a member of the office staff who will assist you in gaining your compulsory DBS check. Thank you.

Finally....

Don't forget that you are welcome to come in and talk to us if you have any questions or anxieties in these early weeks - we want the transition to be as easy as possible from your point of view too!

The Reception Team

Mrs Lynn Wesby, Mrs Alison Reeve, Miss Laura Meehan, Miss Sarah Porch, Mrs Bridget Melville, Mrs Donna Foley, Mrs Sue Arthur and Mrs Beverley Reynolds.