

# RECEPTION AUTUMN TERM OVERVIEW

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to Reception! This term the children will be settling into their new routines and making new friends. Starting school is a very precious time for them (and you!) but I am sure all the children will have thoroughly enjoyable learning experiences in our class! This year will look a little different as we adapt our curriculum to revisit key learning which may have been missed from the previous school year or learning that needs to be revisited and developed further.

## OUR WEEK

**Tuesday:** PE (bags stay in school and are sent home when necessary)

**Thursday:** Swimming day

**Thursday:** Book bags to be sent into school (these will be returned on Friday afternoons)

Please note book bags do not need to come into school on any other days

## Our topic and Curriculum

This newsletter aims to give you some useful information about general routines at school and an overview of the work we will be doing over the year. During the Autumn term Reception's theme will be 'I am amazing.' The children will be exploring and learning all about themselves and their families. As the children settle in they will be learning how to be a good friend. We are also going to celebrate how we are all different and learn about the things that make us special.

The next half term we begin our theme of 'Sparkle and Shine'. The children will be ready to party as we celebrate different festivals of Diwali, Hanukkah and Christmas. We will also explore the seasons of Autumn and Winter throughout this term. We aim to foster a love of learning for all the children. The best way for this is through the children's own interests; therefore our learning may encompass many different topics throughout the term. Play is an important part of our curriculum. Well-planned, challenging and enjoyable play is a key way through which children learn in the Foundation Stage. Our learning takes place both inside the classroom and in our outdoor area throughout the year, so hats, gloves and scarves are required this term!

There are 7 areas of learning in the Foundation Stage and throughout the course of the year the children will be assessed in each of these. We will observe them playing and interacting with each other, take notes, record which numbers or letters they are able to recognise, take photographs of things they have created and keep pieces of work they have completed in a special book.

**Personal, Social and Emotional Development:** The beginning of the school year is an important time for learning routines, making new friends and adapting to a new environment. Throughout this term we will be helping the children to become more independent so they are able to attend to their own needs e.g. getting changed, finding a resource in the classroom, eating their lunch. We will have a focus on good manners, kind and caring behaviour, sharing and fairness. Also, we will be encouraging the children to reaffirm old friendships and make new ones as they carry out activities with one another. Our role play area will reflect different environments that the children are familiar with. I am sure the children will enjoy playing together in this area which is a superb way of learning co-operative play and encourages dialogue between the children. In R.E. we will be finding out about the Christian faith focusing on our local Church. Also we will be enjoying stories from the Old Testament.

**Physical Development:** This area of learning will be covered everyday through using the resources in our outdoor classroom as we hopefully enjoy some sunny weather. It is important for the children to have an element of free play in their outdoor time; however we will also be playing small group games. In our PE sessions we will be playing whole class and group games focusing on: moving safely in a space and responding to commands. We will also be using apparatus to improve the children's balancing skills and exploring different ways of moving their bodies. For the Autumn term children will only need plimsolls in their PE bag. Also we have our weekly swimming lesson.

**Mathematics:** This term the children will be learning to sort objects into sets based on attributes such as shape, colour or size. Once children can confidently sort collections they will learn that sets can be compared and ordered. They will come to understand that when making comparisons a set can have more, fewer or the same number of items as another set. Children will learn to use language such as big, little, large and small to describe classroom objects. They will also learn to copy, create and continue simple repeating patterns. The children will first be learning to represent and compare 1,2,3 and 4. They will come to know how we can add in different ways to make these numbers. Then we will look how to represent numbers to 5. Lastly, we will explore size, positional language, shapes and time **Here are some of the ways you can help your child at home:**

- point out any numerals you see in the environment (on buses, numbers plates, letter boxes or in the supermarket)
- pointing out any shapes you may see either in books or in the environment around you
- encouraging children to count in the correct order, adding in any numbers they may miss
- practise counting items by touching each object as they count
- learn to count things that cannot be moved such as claps and jumps

**Literacy:** We will begin with developing the children's speaking and listening skills as this lays the foundations for the phonic work which we will start this term. Next, we will focus on recognising, reading and writing letter sounds. In class we are following two phonics programmes called 'Jolly Phonics' and 'Ruth Miskin'. Through stories, pictures and actions, these programmes help the children learn letters as sounds first, before they learn the letter names. Also we will be following the DFE programme 'Letters and Sounds' which helps build skills such: hearing rhyme, alliteration, sounds in our environment and blending letter sounds. All programmes are very effective ways of developing reading and spelling skills. In addition, I will send home phonics activities in book bags as 'at home tasks'. By helping your child to learn the letter sounds and actions, you will be providing a great support during the early stages of learning to read and write. The children will also be bringing home two library books in book bags on Friday's. **Please use the reading diaries to record any comments about library or reading books.**

**Communication and language:** There will be lots of opportunities for children to work in small groups where they are encouraged to take turns speaking and listening to each other.

**Expressive Arts and Design:** This is a part of the curriculum that is never-ending and often overlaps many different subjects. Each day there are opportunities for the children to paint, draw, chalk, cut out and model make. These are times for self-expression and exploration of different materials. On every second Thursday Mrs Geldart our specialist art teacher will be working in the classroom. She will be busy teaching different art techniques and working with the children on some wonderful art projects. The children will also participate in music and movement session or a music making session, so they can learn about simple elements of music and have a variety



of different opportunities to sing and dance. Areas of focus will be: moving rhythmically, repeating simple and complex percussion patterns, exploring sounds of different instruments and joining in with ring games. Children usually love to sing, so we will be continuing to build up a varied and interesting repertoire of songs.

**Understanding of the World:** In ICT we will be encouraging independence as the children learn how to use a wide range of programmes on our interactive white-board and our chrome books. We will learn about all of the people that make up the community of our Reception class. We will also strengthen the positive impressions children have of their own cultures and faiths, and those of others in their community, by sharing and celebrating a range of practices and special events. The children will learn about our world as we explore the changes we experience during the seasons of Autumn and Winter.

**Cooking** The children will have the opportunity to cook twice every half term. We ask for a voluntary contribution of £7.50 to cover the cost of cooking and other materials that we will need in Reception such as ingredients for playdough.



**Miss Napier** (Class teacher)  
**Mrs Emms** (Nursery Nurse)

Mrs Harris & Mrs Geldart cover Miss Napier every other Thursday for planning and assessment time.

#### **Educational Visits:**

**13th of October:** Autumn walk to Friary Park

**13th of December:** *The Tiger Who Came To Tea* theatre show at the Arts Depo

**Keeping you informed** For both school staff and parents communication is essential; I will keep you updated through, letters and notices on the board in the cloakroom area and on some occasions through text messages. Each week I post on the google classroom a 'How to Help at Home' newsletter with information and an insight to what the children have been learning throughout the week and how you can support this learning at home. In addition we have regular whole school newsletters. The children's homework tasks are posted on our google classroom on Friday afternoons with an explanation for you to follow. I will always endeavour to make time for you and any questions/ queries you may have. The end of the day is usually easier for us to have a chat so should you need this please let me know and we can schedule a time.