

Reception Class Newsletter Summer Term 2017

Welcome back, we hope you all had a lovely Easter break. This newsletter contains useful information about what you should expect during the final term in Reception.

The summer term is here already and I am really looking forward to working with Reception. We are looking forward to using the outdoor area as much as possible over the next few months and hopefully we are going to have some good weather which will allow us to plant and grow all our lovely plants, flowers and vegetables. Some of these we may even get to eat in the class.

In the Foundation Stage Curriculum the outdoor classroom is considered to be vital to enhance the children's learning. We therefore will be using the outdoor area daily. When we have hot weather we have to be very aware of sun burn and we advise that before coming to school that you apply a strong sun block to your child's legs, arms, face and neck. We will top up sun cream during the day to those children for whom we have written permission. A sun hat with a peak and a neck cover would also help to protect your child.

**Communication and Language**

The children will be continuing to develop key skills such as listening and following instructions, sharing ideas and opinions with others and extending their vocabulary by exploring the meaning and sounds of new words. We will be encouraging the children to ask each other questions and to explain to each other what they are trying to do and how they are planning to achieve their goal.

**How can you help?**

Talk to your child and give a running commentary of what you are doing whilst completing tasks.

**Physical Development**

In PE lessons the children will be playing games and undertaking dance and movement activities. Please ensure that your child has a named kit and plimsolls in school at all times, although we may not have a PE session in the hall every week. As with other areas of the curriculum, we will teach and develop skills as the children demonstrate a need to develop them further. Many of their physical skills will be developed in our outdoor area and when using tools and equipment in the classroom.

**How can you help?**

Encourage your child to be independent when dressing and to fasten their own coat. Talk to them about the importance of good personal hygiene –washing hands after using the toilet etc

**Personal, Social and Emotional Development**

The children will be continuing to develop their social skills including how to share resources and understand that their own actions affect other people. We will be encouraging the children to be confident in speaking to others about their own wants and interests and have a positive self-image.

**How can you help?**

Talk to them about their day; praise them if they talk about sharing and other positive play experiences.

## **Mathematics**

We will be focusing on numbers to 20 over the term and helping the children recognise and write them. We do a lot of counting, sorting and organising groups of real objects in class, sometimes involving larger numbers. The children thread beads and arrange toys and use construction kits so they learn to talk about, recognise and recreate simple patterns, using everyday words like 'in front', 'behind', 'beside', to describe position.

### **How can you help?**

Allow your child to 'help'! Helping unload shopping, and playing in the kitchen helps children develop language to describe the shape and size of solids and flat shapes; and to compare quantities. Practise writing and ordering the numbers to 20 and beyond. Use everyday objects to count. Ask questions such as "How many would you have if you had 1 more/less?" "Can you double that number?"

## **Literacy**

Over the term we will be helping children to develop their reading and writing skills by continuing with our daily RWI activities. We are sharing stories every day in order to instil a love of reading and to help build their vocabulary and experiences. We will do 'reading groups' on a Monday and Friday where we will have an opportunity to hear your children read and we will change their reading books. In addition to this we will continue to read one to one with your child as often as possible so please ensure they have their reading book in school every day. The children also have an E-book to enjoy with you on Active Learn. You can find their password in their reading record.

### **How can you help?**

Read as often as possible with your child. Talk to them about what happens in the story; ask them what might happen next. Visit the library and encourage them to enjoy a wide range of books and comics.

## **Expressive Art and Design**

The children will be developing their creative skills by expressing their ideas and feelings through music, art, dance and drama. The children will be building a repertoire of songs and dances and will be given the opportunity to explore musical instruments. The class have continuous access to a large range of construction and craft materials to aid their learning in this area.

As a reception class we use many items that would normally be thrown away, so with that in mind we are always happy and appreciative of help from our families so if you have old or unwanted: buttons, lace, ribbon, wool, fabric, empty washing up bottles, small boxes, craft items or anything you think would be useable then please bring them in for us.

## **Understanding the World**

The children will be developing their ICT skills through using iPads, laptops and computers independently to access educational programmes and apps.

They will be looking at their local environment and exploring the natural world; looking at changes in the seasons and how it affects our surroundings.

**RE**

This half term we will be talking and learning about **New Life**. We will begin to understand the happiness and excitement new life can bring.

After the half term break we will be learning about **The Church**. We will learn about the church building, the importance of the tabernacle and why Sunday is a special day for us.

**General Information**

Please remember to put your child name on EVERY item of uniform (including plimsolls). If some of your child's uniform goes missing we have a much greater chance of returning it to you if a name is clearly printed on it.

We will continue to enjoy a wide range of activities both indoors and outdoors and I will add pictures to Tapestry so that you can see up to date photographs.

We would like to thank those parents who have used Tapestry to share their child's experiences with family and friends. We see your child's continuing learning journey as a partnership between yourselves as parents/carers and us in school.

Thank you for your continued support. When parents, relatives and friends are interested in the work of the class, the children become more interested in their learning.

Please find attached a copy of the Early Learning Goals. These are the objectives that children are expected to achieve by the end of their Reception year. I have also attached a copy of the high frequency words that the children need to read and write. I hope that you find this information useful.

If you have any questions about the class structure or curriculum, or any areas of concern with your child or their learning please do not hesitate to discuss these with us.

Mrs Morrison and the Reception Team.