

## Reception Class Newsletter Spring Term 2024

We would like to wish everybody a "Happy New Year", we hope you all had a lovely, restful Christmas with friends and family.

This newsletter contains useful information about what you should expect during the Spring Term.

We like the children to be involved in planning their work as far as possible. The aim is to give the children ownership of their learning and to develop their creative and critical thinking skills. The staff know which skills the children need to learn and when each child is ready to develop these further. The children tell us what they would like to learn about a topic and we take it from there! We are constantly observing the children to see how they learn best, what stage they are at in their learning and what they need to learn next. This process ensures that each child's learning experience is accurately matched to their needs and they will have the best learning experience possible whilst in the Reception class.

### **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**

We will be doing lots of work on developing the children's fine motor skills and ensuring that letters are correctly formed. We will continue to work on balancing, moving in different ways and using the large play equipment. We will also be working on our awareness of space as we move around in small or large spaces.

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

Encourage your child to be independent when dressing and to fasten their own coat.

### **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. Talk to them about the importance of good personal hygiene –washing hands after using the toilet etc. Talk to your child about how we can keep safe near roads.

### **Mathematics**

We will be focusing on numbers to 10 and beyond over the term and helping the children recognise and write them. We will explore numbers in relation to time, money and measure. 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 such as 'circle' and 'bigger' to describe the shape and size of solids and flat shapes; and 'greater', 'smaller', 'heavier', or 'lighter' to compare quantities. You could help by saying number names in counting everyday objects (touching each object and saying one number

name for each). Sing songs and rhymes like '1 2 3 4 5, once I caught a fish alive', and '1 2 buckle my shoe'.

## **Literacy**

Over the term we will be helping children to develop their reading and writing skills by continuing with our daily Supersonic phonics activities. We are sharing stories every day to instil a love of reading and to help build their vocabulary and experiences.

### **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. Please ensure they have their reading book in school every day. 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.

## **Understanding the World**

The children will be looking at their local environment and exploring the natural world; looking at changes in the seasons and how it affects our surroundings. They will be making and using maps of the local area. We will be learning about events in recent history and how we have changed and developed over our lifetime.

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

## **General Information**

Please remember to put your child name on EVERY item of uniform (including shoes). If some of your child's uniform goes missing we have a much greater chance of returning 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 we will add pictures to the Tapestry so that you can see up to date photographs.

We would like to thank those parents who have used Tapestry to let us know when their child has done something new, shown an interest in their learning and talked about it at home, or even when they have been particularly interested in something (topic or event) at home so that we can plan appropriately. We see your child's continuing learning journey as a partnership between yourselves as parents/carers and us in school. If you have any questions about the class structure or curriculum, or any areas of concern with your child please feel free to ask for time with us.

The Reception Class Team