

## Important Information

### **CATs Day**

Reception CAT day is held on a Friday, once a fortnight. The remaining dates for the Spring Term are:

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> January

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March

Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March

On this day, the children should come to school wearing clothing that is suitable for messy activities in Art, Drama and P.E. They will also spend some time outside so will need a coat, hat, scarf and gloves on colder days.

### **Book Bags**

Please remind your child to bring their book bag to school every day. This should include their homework book, their reading books and reading record.

### **Homework**

In Reception we would like you to support your child to do the following:

- Read their reading book to an adult or older sibling every day. Please sign your child's reading record book and where possible, make a comment about their reading.
- Their weekly homework which will be found in their homework folder and will come home every Friday. One piece of homework will be supporting their maths learning and the other will be either literacy or topic work.

### **Parental involvement**

We recognise the importance in valuing children's experiences at home as well as in school. Please support us in doing this by filling out a 'Wow card' (available from the reception parent/carer notice board) when your child achieves something new, does something that makes you both proud or something they want to share with the class. Once you have done this please take a new card from the entrance hall so you are ready for the next proud moment!

To support your child in all areas of their learning, there are some suggested activities below that you could do with your child outside of school. Please also look out for parent workshops that we are running in school.

To keep up to date with your child's progress in school, we have Stay and Learn sessions for parents/carers of focus learners every Monday.

If you require any further information, please speak to your child's class teacher.

Thank you for your continued support.

# Reception Curriculum Information



*Reception  
Spring Term 2017  
Prime areas of learning*

**Communication & Language Development**  
*Attention, Understanding & Speaking*

Within the area of Communication and Language the children will be enjoying a range of stories. We will continue to explore small world play, drama and role play to help enhance children's language and imagination. During group discussions, children will be encouraged to listen and respond to ideas expressed by others. We will be using language of preposition to explain and describe where something is e.g. under, on top, behind, next to. We are also focusing on responding to instructions involving two steps.



**Ideas for supporting your child at home:**

- Read daily with your child and encourage them to answer and ask questions about the story.
- Encourage your child to play imaginatively with toys at home e.g. pretend to look after a toy animal or take them to the vets.
- Ask your child to complete a set of instructions e.g. put your pyjamas on and then brush your teeth. Have high expectations of your child, they should follow your instruction the first time you ask.
- Set up hunts in your home with objects for your child to find so they use prepositional language to explain where they were hidden e.g. on top, behind..
- Remind your child that good listening involves looking at the person who is talking, listening to all of the words, waiting your turn to speak and being still (if sittina).

**Physical Development**  
*Moving and Handling, Health and Self Care*

Our main focus this term is for children to develop an understanding of good practice, with regards to exercise, eating, sleeping and basic hygiene and how this can contribute to a healthy lifestyle. The children will continue to develop their fine manipulative and gross motor skills through a range of indoor and outdoor activities. They will learn how to use a pencil and hold it effectively to form recognisable letters, use simple tools to effect changes to materials and develop their control and co-ordination in large and small movements. Children will need to show an understanding of the need for safety when tackling new challenges and consider and manage some risks. We will continue to encourage children to be independent with self care e.g. zipping up their coats and looking after their belongings.



**Ideas for supporting your child at home:**

- Encourage your child to become more independent with their self care at home, including dressing and undressing, toileting and eating. Spend time teaching and supporting them to tie their shoe laces and zip their coats up. The children in reception should no longer be being pushed in buggies. Spending longer than needed in pushchairs negatively affects children's physical, language and social emotional skills.
- Talk to your child about all of the ways we can keep healthy. Involve your child in making healthy foods at home that they can try.
- Give your child opportunities to develop their gross motor skills, physical strength and co-ordination. Take them to the local park to play ball games or to the swimming pool.
- Give your child various writing tools to explore mark making and to practise their letter formation and fine motor control.

**Personal, Social & Emotional Development**

*Making Relationships, Self Confidence and Self Awareness & Managing Feelings and Behaviour*



This term we aim to increase children's independence and involvement in their learning by encouraging them to try new activities and to talk about what they have learnt. We will be involving them in discussing their next steps in their learning, thinking about what they are good at and what they could be even better at with practise. We will continue to focus on school rules and talk about our own and others' behaviour and its consequences. We will talk about how to negotiate and solve problems in friendly and positive ways. We will be providing lots of learning opportunities for children to develop their confidence as a speaker in both small and large groups.

**Ideas for supporting your child at home:**

- Encourage your child to talk about their school day. Ask them questions about their learning and what they could try, or do differently, the next day.
- Provide your child with turn taking games to play with you or an older sibling e.g. snap, catch.
- Give your child the opportunity to take part in new and real life experiences e.g. buying something from a shop, going to the park or the local library to borrow a book.

## *Expressive Arts and Design*

### *Exploring and using Media and Materials & Being Imaginative*

We will continue to enjoy singing, exploring the different sounds of instruments and creating rhythms and dance movements in response to music. The children will be encouraged to use a range of tools and techniques competently and appropriately in shaping, assembling and joining materials. Children will be encouraged to play cooperatively as part of a group to develop and act out a story.

#### **Ideas for supporting your child at home:**

- Draw and paint different things they like, looking at size, shape, colour and pattern. Make models with junk materials, using tools and joining materials to build and balance.
- Clap along to the beat of the songs you hear on the radio or television with your child. Practise dancing along to a song or copying moves from a video. There are some Boogie Beebies videos available on the Cbeebies website.

## *Understanding the World*

### *People and Communities, The World & Technology*

One of our main topics this term is 'Growing' which will include looking at ourselves, plants and animals. The children will develop an understanding of growth, decay and changes over time. We will learn about different life cycles, experiment with growing plants and talk about how we can show care and concern for our environment and living things. We will be lucky enough to have some chicks in Reception for two weeks which we can learn about and care for. Reception children will be spending some time learning through a Forest School approach which will support their knowledge of the world around them. The children will learn how to operate the I pads and use a simple age appropriate program on a computer. We will also be looking at and celebrating similarities and differences between ourselves and others.

#### **Ideas for supporting your child at home:**

- Plant a seed or bean with your child and teach them how to look after it so they can watch it grow.
- Talk to your child about things that are important in your culture and help them to recognise that some people have different values and opinions.



### **Specific areas of learning**



## *Mathematics*

### *Number & Shape, Space and Measures*

The children will count, recognise, form and order numbers up to 20 and beyond. They will be encouraged to use objects or number lines to say which number is one more or one less than a given number. In practical activities and discussions, they will begin to use vocabulary involved in adding and subtracting. Through play situations, children will be encouraged to use everyday language related to measurement including height, weight, length, time and money. They will re-visit 'flat' 2D shapes and begin to use mathematical names for 'solid' 3D shapes. They will begin to use mathematical terms to describe 2D and 3D shapes.



#### **Ideas for supporting your child at home:**

- Add groups of objects together e.g. apples and oranges, how many?
- Form numbers with play dough, pens, paint, shaving foam or rice.
- Solve real life problems such as calculating how many cups and plates are needed for a family or teddy bears picnic.
- Discuss 2D and 3D shapes in your environment e.g. Are these shapes different? What are they called? How many sides does it have?
- Use language of time e.g. 'dinner is at 7 o'clock' 'tomorrow morning we will...'
- Set up a pretend shop in your home so your child can use coins to pretend to buy things whilst using language associated with money.

## *Literacy*

We will continue to develop children's Reading and Writing skills through the daily Read Write phonics program, listening to one to one readers, story times and writing focus groups.

### **Reading**

The children will be using their phonic knowledge to segment the sounds in words and blend them together to read words and then sentences. They will be encouraged to describe story settings, events and key characters and select and enjoy a range of fiction and non-fiction books on offer.

### **Writing**

Children are beginning to use their sounds to write for a variety of purposes e.g. letters, lists, stories. They will be encouraged to form letters correctly to communicate meaning, representing some sounds correctly and in sequence. We will be writing labels, captions and then simple sentences. Children will be encouraged to say their ideas aloud before writing and to read their writing back.

#### **Ideas for supporting your child at home:**

- Visit the local library and talk about books.
- Listen to your child read their book and read a story to your child every day.
- Have a writing table/box with different writing materials and paper for your child to have access to and give them opportunities to write for a purpose e.g. sending letters to a friend or family member. Allow them to draw pictures and then make up stories together, encouraging your child to help you with sounds and writing words/sentences.

