

Reception

Dear Parents,

Welcome to our Curriculum Newsletter for this academic year. In this newsletter we will give you a brief outline of our topics for each half term and provide some information on our daily routines and how you can support your child this year.

Learning Journals

In Reception the children have a mixture of adult led activities and self chosen activities. Your child's learning and progress will be evidenced in their learning journal. We use a digital app called '2simple' to record observations. These are emailed half termly as well as printed out in school and added to any pieces of work that your child has produced.

If you are a new parent to school, you will receive an email to invite you to receive the half termly emails. In addition, you can also add to your child's learning journal by emailing back to the 2 simple emails or sending in notes or photos to school.

Daily Routines

As the children progress throughout the year the daily timetable will also adapt to the children's changing needs.

Here is a general plan of our day.

This is a typical timetable by the end of Reception

- 8:40-9:00: Busy fingers, activities designed to improve fine motor skills, these may include; cutting, drawing, threading, disco dough, dancing with ribbons to music
- 9:00-9:05 Class prayer and daily reflection
- 9:05 -10:00: Phonics followed by Literacy
- 10:00- 11:00 'Free flow' The children have time to choose their own activities and can move between the classrooms and the Early Year's garden.
- 11:00-11:45 Maths
- Lunch
- 1:00 Adult led activities Reading/RE/Understanding of the world /Arts and Expressive Design.
- 1:40- 3:20 Free flow, followed by story and time to get ready to go home.

CURRICULUM NEWSLETTER

2019-2020



Our Themes

Autumn 1: Our Bodies	Autumn 2: Let's Celebrate
Spring 1: Changes	Spring 2: Around the World
Summer 1: People Who Help Us	Summer 2: On the Move

Underpinning the Early Years Curriculum are the three prime areas of **Communication and language**, **Physical Development** and **Personal, Social and Emotional Development**.

- ♦ In everything we do we are learning to communicate with others, listening and demonstrating our understanding, showing how attentive we are and developing

Communication and Language / Literacy

Within Literacy, children will be exploring a range of texts linked to our topics. We will look closely at different types of books, fiction and non fiction.

Using the Pie Corbett approach we will learn our texts through role play and visual story maps.

Our focus on writing will be based on writing labels and captions this term. In the Spring and Summer we will work on extending our caption into sentences and adding in story language from our texts such as 'Once upon a time'.

Phonics

We will be following the teaching order of Read Write Inc.

Once the children have learnt the first 5 sounds, we will teach the children to orally blend sounds together to make words and to segment words to read.

We will be sending a range of books home in due course, some will be based on phonics and some will encourage the recognition of high frequency words and common exceptions words. These are also known as tricky words as they can not be phonetically decoded.

At Home

It is extremely important that child reads every night to practise the skills which are being taught at school. Please sign/record a comment in your child's reading record. Books should generally be read 2-3 times so that new vocabulary can be reinforced and expression and intonation can be introduced when a child is familiar with the story.

Mathematics

Within mathematics children will be studying number in detail. This will include:

- ◆ Recognition of numerals and matching numerals to quantities
- ◆ Developing language of 'more' and fewer'
- ◆ In practical activities and using objects explore the concepts of addition and subtraction.
- ◆ Exploring shape and space by playing with shapes and making arrangements with objects
- ◆ Beginning to use the mathematical names for 'solid' 3D shapes and 'flat' 2D shapes.
- ◆ Developing everyday language to talk about the length, height weight and capacity of objects.

At Home

To support the children's development in this area it would be very helpful if parents could continue to practise counting with the children at home. This can include:

- ◆ Counting jumps
- ◆ Counting steps
- ◆ Counting a small group of toys

Children can also be further extending through simple addition and subtraction.

- ◆ 1 more than
- ◆ 1 less than
- ◆ Combining two groups to find out how many we have altogether

An understanding of shape can be developed through lots of discussion about shape in the environment and their properties. Questioning and discussion is extremely important within the Early Years.

Physical Development

This is one of the 'Prime Areas' in the Early years Curriculum. We will be developing both gross motor skills and fine motor skills.

Most days start with a 'Busy Finger' session, where the children are encouraged to work on their fine motor skills to strengthen their muscles and aid letter and number formation.

During the day the children have lots of opportunities to develop their gross motor skills both in the Early Year's Garden and the main playground. In addition to this we will have our focussed PE lessons on a Wednesday morning. This is when children will change into their PE kits.

At Home

Encourage the use of drawing, cutting and baking to develop lots of hand eye coordination skills. Use large toys such as bikes and scooters to develop spatial awareness and coordination. Visit parks and encourage climbing and other activities which continue to build upper body strength e.g swinging on ropes, monkeys bars, and using poles.

Encouraging your child to dress independently, practise tricky things like buttons at home.

Understanding the World

Exploring the world in which we live is an important concept for our young children to develop a sense of. Later in their school life this area will become subjects like Citizenship, Science, Geography, History and Technology. The children will therefore be investigating their outdoor environment in great detail. This will include:

- ◆ Commenting and asking questions about their familiar world
- ◆ Talking about things that they have observed such as plants, animals, natural and found objects
- ◆ Developing an understanding of growth and decay
- ◆ Begin to show concern for living things and the environment

The children will also continue to explore significant events in their own experiences and recognise and describe special times or events for family or friends.

At Home

To explore this area further it would be very helpful for children to investigate their outdoor environment, this includes lots of walks in the park describing what they can see and how it changes between seasons.

Expressive Arts and Design

This area includes Art, Music and Drama. The children will learn about mixing colours and exploring different textures. They will learn to plan, build, adapt and evaluate their own pieces of work. Sometimes the end product may not be the most important factor but the creativity and thought processes that enable your child to make their own decisions.

The children build relationships that will enable them to create their own stories and relive their own experiences and act these out through role play and small world scenarios.

How you can help:

We need a steady supply of materials that the children can use with their modelling. Clean boxes, cartons, left over ribbons from presents.

In addition fronts of birthday cards, unwanted stationery, party invitations and envelopes all help to add interest to role play areas, writing areas and the junk modelling areas.

Characteristics of Effective Learning

Playing and exploring— engagement	Finding out and exploring Playing with what they know Being willing to 'have a go'
Active learning - motivation	Being involved and concentrating Keeping trying Enjoying achieving what they set out to do
Creating and thinking critically	Having their own ideas Making links Choosing ways to do things

R.E Themes

Autumn1:New Beginnings	Autumn 2: Advent to Easter
Spring 1:Sacramental People	Spring 2: Lent and The Passion of Jesus
Summer 1: Easter to Pentecost	Summer 2: A Virtuous Life

Reception children do not join the main school for Mass, instead we celebrate key liturgical moments with our own assemblies and liturgies. These will include joining Nursery for a Harvest Assembly, Christmas play and to celebrate our Feast Day as well as joining Key Stage One for a 'Lenten Liturgy' .

In the Summer term, Reception will begin to join the infants and juniors for assemblies.

How you can help your child and the school;

- ◆ Label clothing with names including coats, PE kits and plimsolls.
- ◆ Label water bottles with your child's name
- ◆ Named pair of wellingtons to stay in school
- ◆ Outdoor water proof clothing to enable access to the garden all year.
- ◆ Please do not put water bottles into 'Book bags' as our reading books are often bought in sets of six and can be expensive to replace.
- ◆ Read little and often rather than saving books till the weekend.