



Reception Newsletter - September 2024



sound/word flashcards will then be sent home in your child's book bag every

Dear Parents/ carers,

Hello and a warm welcome to all our new and existing families. We enjoyed meeting you all and look forward to working with you this year. The children have all settled brilliantly so far and are already making new friendships as well as building on old ones. We are really enjoying getting to know all of the children.

Starting school is an exciting time of change for children and families. School life is very different to their previous experiences at Pre-school or Nursery. We understand that the first few weeks can be an anxious time for all concerned, so please do not hesitate to contact us about anything that concerns you, no matter how small it may seem. We believe that working in partnership with parents is key to the children settling in quickly and happily.

The children are already exploring their school environment. We will share the outside space with year one so hopefully the children will also make friends with some of the older children.

Communication, Language and Literacy

In Reception, we will soon begin our phonics programme by concentrating on tuning into sounds in the environment. We use the scheme "*Unlocking Letters and Sounds*". Over the year, we will learn all 42 sounds that make up the English language. We will begin to learn four new sounds each week (one sound each day), starting the week commencing 16/09/24. The letters will be learnt in sets of four each week) with common exception words being learnt as well each week. These new

Thursday for them to practise at home please.

Please ensure that your child knows the four sounds for that week so that they do not get behind. We will send home weekly Tapestry videos to show you how to correctly say each sound.

Please fill in the yellow reading comment book daily to let us know when your child has read to you or when you have read to them. Sharing books and reading scheme books will be changed a group per day throughout the week. Very soon, your child will bring home a wordless book to "read" to you. Please aim for four or more comments each week.

Each term we select core books to focus on. Each book offers the children the opportunity to engage in role-play, drama activities and provides a stimulus for writing.

Writing:

Some of the children will be ready to write and some simply won't be; this is totally fine. During the year, we will build up our fine motor skills through lots of funky finger exercises as well as building on the gross motor skills needed to develop balance and the shoulder muscles needed for good handwriting. Please have a good practise of your child's name on their laminated sheet as this is the most important word that they'll need to write.

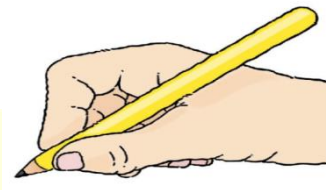
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Physical Development

Daily funky fingers activities in the classroom will encourage the children to develop their fine motor skills and gain control over pencils and scissors.

Letter formation is taught through huge body movements then through smaller movements with a range of media.

We will be working to ensure that children use the correct pencil grip. We encourage you to help your children with this "tripod" grip as it can be tricky to master.



(Pencil grasped between thumb and index finger, resting on the middle finger).

It is important to try to get pencil grip right early on as it is very difficult to fix later! Gross motor skills will be developed in our fantastic outside space, whether that's through climbing, sand and water play or bike riding.

PE- PE lessons will be on a Tuesday morning. The children can come to school in their PE kits that day. We will begin with parachute games in the hall as this really helps gross motor skills- working on those core and shoulder muscles.

Expressive Arts and Design

In Art we will be exploring paint, collage, pencil drawings and using other medium such as chalk and pastels.

Mathematics



Through a variety of multi-sensory activities both in the classroom and in the outside learning area, the children will be developing their knowledge of numbers. This term we will be covering the following areas in maths.

- *Matching and sorting objects*
- *Identifying simple shapes*
 - *Shape games and activities (Making play dough shapes, sorting shapes into boxes etc.)*
 - *Finger gym mathematic activities.*
 - *Comparing amounts, size and capacity*
- *Exploring patterns*

Some of these objectives will be achieved through **teacher led sessions, and some through child**-initiated learning. Maths related conversations at home would help to consolidate what is learnt at school.

Understanding the World

This term our topic will be "All about Me"- enabling us to get to know your child. This will be done through play and communication and language skills. We will look at pictures and talk about everyone's family and friends. We will be asking for baby photos over the next few weeks so that the children can talk about how they have changed over time. We will also be introducing weather and seasons, commenting on the changes and differences between days and months.



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In music the children will be singing a variety of songs and identifying and creating sounds.

Learning Journeys- Tapestry

We are up and running with *Tapestry* now. We have published observations already and it is great to see comments coming in from parents. You will receive an email/app alert when a new observation has been added and you can then login and make comments should you so wish.

The overall aim of the online Learning Journey is to record some of your child's learning experiences, to make assessments, to help us plan for their next steps of learning and to match the learning experiences to your child.

This online journal will outline the journey of children's learning and development and is made up of observations, photographs, "wow" moments and comments from parents/carers. The Wow slips make a valuable contribution to their journals

We are really looking forward to an exciting year ahead, if you have any questions or worries please do not hesitate to come in and see us.

Mrs Wilton and Mrs Ithier.

Key Dates

17.09.24 – Individual Photographs
23.09.24 – PTA AGM, 9.10am School Hall
25.09.24 – Open Morning for new parents
02.10.24 – Flu Vaccinations
03.10.24 – Harvest Festival
04.10.24 – INSET Day
09.10.24 – Grandparents' Afternoon
14.10.24 – Parent Consultation Evening
17.10.24 – Parent Consultation Evening
22-24.10.24 – Prayer Spaces
25.10.24 – Geography Event Day
28.10.24 – HALF TERM
04.11.24 – Start of Term 2

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