St Michael's Church of England Primary School

Learn – Care – Enjoy

Reception Class Newsletter – September 2019

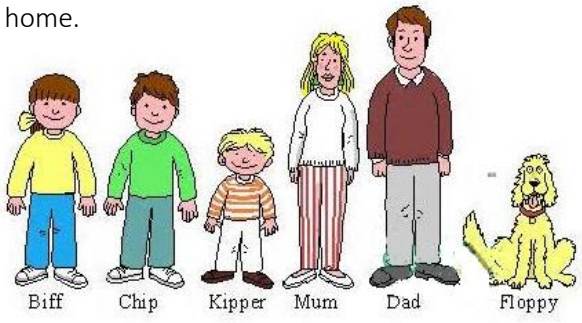
Dear Parents/ carers,

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.

Communication, Language and Literacy

In Reception we will begin our phonics programme by concentrating on tuning into sounds in the environment. Currently we use *Jolly Phonics* materials and over the year we will learn all 42 sounds that make up the English language. We will begin to learn each sound the week commencing 25/09/17. The letters will be learnt in sets of 4 each week with a tricky word being learnt as well each week. These new sounds/words will then be sent home in your child's homework folder every Friday for them to practise at home.



Your child will also start to become familiar with the Oxford Reading Tree Characters. The characters are Kipper, Biff, Chip and Floppy the dog. These books will be introduced to the children in the upcoming term; beginning with "wordless books". Once your child can read the character's names, we will begin to send home books with words- so exciting! Please fill in the yellow reading comment book regularly (daily would be fantastic please) to let us know when your child has read to you. Sharing books and reading scheme books will be changed a group per day throughout the week. Regular reading is vital to rapid progress in reading; the children that read regularly fly up through the reading scheme.

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. When your child is ready we will begin to look at a pre-cursive script (ready to join fully in year one) Please see below:

a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o
p q r s t u v w x y z

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.

- *Drawing around their hands and feet, looking at how many fingers and toes we have.*
- *Identifying simple shapes*
- *Shape games and activities (Making play dough shapes, sorting shapes into boxes etc.)*
- *Finger gym mathematic activities.*
- *Recognising numbers 1-10 (Numbers all around them inside the class and outside)*
- *Counting up to 10 (Using their fingers and singing songs e.g. 10 fat sausages etc.)*
- *Counting objects to 10 anad beyond- being careful to touch each object as they go!*

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

Understanding the World

This term we will be focusing on families, friends and the world around us. This will be done through play, communication and language skills. Looking at pictures and talking about everyone's family and friends.

We will also be introducing weather and seasons, commenting on the changes and differences between days and months.

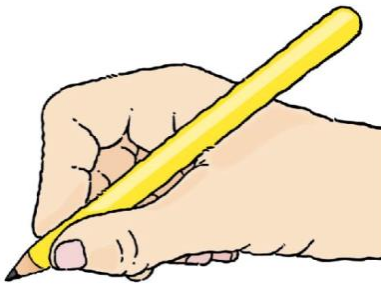
Lastly we will be focusing on technology. The children will get the chance to play letter, phonics and number games on the iPad. They will also engage with various forms of technology in the role play areas that will play a huge part in developing their imagination skills.

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 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!

Expressive Arts and Design

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

The role play area will change over the term and offer daily access for the children to develop their speaking and listening skills.

We are also fortunate that every Thursday, Mrs Scally, a peripatetic pianist comes to play for our dance sessions. To hear live music is a luxury and the children really enjoy all the fantastic music that she plays.

Learning Journeys- Tapestry

We are up and running with *Tapestry* now. We have published many observations already and it is great to see comments coming in from parents. You will receive an email alert when a new observation has been added and you can then login and make comments should you so wish. "Liking" your child's photo lets us know that you are receiving the photos.

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. Please do send in photos from home using Tapestry as the children love seeing them up on the big screen.

The Wow slips make a valuable contribution to their journals. Please make sure these go in the post box along with 'news from home' slips.

Billy Bear

We have a class bear that the children have loved meeting this week. Billy the bear will be taking it in turns to spend the weekend with each child in the class throughout the school year. Inside Billy's bag is a diary that we would love for the children to stick photographs, drawings, mark making and possibly words to record their time together.

Billy will be visiting his first home very shortly. He will go home with a child on a Friday and will need to be returned on a Tuesday. Then on the Tuesday that child will tell the class of his/her adventures with Billy using the diary.

Diary dates

w/c 16/09/18- All children in for full days

28/09/19 OPEN MORNING FOR NEW CHILDREN

04/10/19 Individual/sibling school photos

23/10 and 24/10 Parents evenings

w/c 28/10/19 HALF TERM

04/11/19 INSET day (school closed to pupils)

06/11/12 Open morning- new children

01/12/19 Christingle service in church

11/12/19 Pantomime trip- Dick Whittington

12/12/18 RECEPTION NATIVITY PLAY

17/12/19 Reception Christmas Party

18/12/19 Christmas lunch

20/12/19 Last day of term

06/01/20 Term 3 starts

Additional Information

We are always looking for volunteers to help us with reading, cooking, arts and crafts, trips etc. If you are able to help then please speak to either of us.

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

Mrs Wilton and Mrs Ithier.