



Reception Autumn Newsletter



Dear Parents,

We would like to take this opportunity to warmly welcome you and your child to their first term in full time school. We feel the staggered entry period was very successful, allowing every child to get to know their teachers, and for the teachers to begin to understand the individual needs of the children. Our main aim is to ensure your child feels happy and safe in school, so please do not hesitate to ask the class teacher if you have any questions regarding your child. The best time to talk to staff is after school when the rest of the children have been collected.

Reading



We aim to listen to every child read once a week in school, some weeks we may manage more than this. As we are sure you can appreciate in order to allow us to give every child the time they deserve is extremely time consuming. It is for this reason we are extremely grateful for all the help that many of you provide us with. Each week the children will bring home a sheet with 5 Action Words. Please could you help your child to learn the actions and words as a little homework activity. Learning to spell out the words would also be very beneficial for your child.

Our Reception newsletter will be sent home every half term, to inform you what is happening in school. In the Foundation Stage the curriculum is very much shaped around the children's current interests, and through this we aim to develop the key skills the children require to learn and develop. The basis for our learning in the first term will be the topic - All About Me and learning about the character Kipper and his family from the Oxford Reading Tree Stories. We begin the half term by posing the question Who Am I? to the children.



Personal, Social and Emotional Development

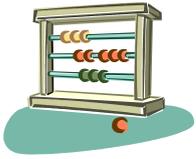
Much of our work at the beginning of the term will be settling the children into their new routines. We shall be talking about New Beginnings. We will continue to develop the children's social skills and friendships. We will be encouraging the children to solve problems themselves and to be polite to others. The children will also be continuing to work on their independence.



Communication, Literacy and Writing

The children will be working on their speaking and listening skills in group work. Each week the children will be working on a 'big book' in group guided reading and writing sessions. The children will complete writing challenges within the classroom catered to their individual developing writing skills. All of the children's

writing both Teacher Led and Independent will now be placed in the children's writing journals. We shall be introducing the children to our Letters and Sounds scheme that is used in school, learning the sounds really helps with starting to read and write!



Maths

Our Maths work this first half term is based upon reading, writing and sequencing numbers. The children will be doing lots of counting and making sets. They will be learning to recognise number symbols and finding out what comes before and after a given number. The majority of this work is of a practical nature. Look out for our maths challenges that we send home.



Understanding of the World

We will be talking about Autumn and the children will be encouraged to bring items in to display on our Investigation table. We will be encouraging children to talk about their homes, families and experiences through their holiday boxes. We also hope to take some walks around our local area and even visit children's houses and would appreciate any volunteers!



Physical Development

The children will be taking part in basic skills sessions on **Wednesday Mornings**. This half term the children will be focusing on their seated balance and static floor balance through the stories *Monkey Business* and *Caspar the Cat*. Reception Children do not need PE kits, they work in pants and vest with bare feet. We also use our outdoor area for physical activities on a daily basis. We will also be beginning our 'Busy Fingers' sessions on a morning these sessions to begin with will focus on the children's fine motor skills, in hand manipulation, pincer and tripod grips.



Expressive Arts and Design

The children will be exploring a range of different media and techniques, they will be making observational paintings and drawings of themselves and fruit and vegetables. As well as exploring colour mixing with powder paints to create Autumn Leaves. As a whole school we will be looking at Aboriginal Art and listening to *Waltzing Matilda* and *Drivers Dream* as part of *Take One Image, Take One Sound*. Our music sessions will be based upon clapping rhythms and singing songs related to mathematics. Our role play areas this half term are a home corner and a fruit and vegetable shop.

Dates for your Diary



- 22nd September - School nurse visit – Healthy Eating
- 24th September - Early Reading/Phonics Meeting 5pm-6pm
- 29th September - School nurse visit – Hand Hygiene
- 6th October - School nurse visit – Dental Health
- 23rd October – Drop Everything And Read afternoon
- Week Beginning 9th November – Parental Consultations

- Week Beginning 16th November – Parental Consultations
- 1st December – Reception Christmas Crafts Day
- 3rd December – Christmas Fair
- 8th December (am) - Foundation Stage Christmas Concert
- 9th December (pm) – Foundation Stage Christmas Concert
- 11th December – Foundation Stage Pantomime Visit



Top Tips for Communication, Literacy and Writing for this half term!

- Books can be enjoyed anytime, anywhere – in bed, in the car, under the table.
- Make up silly versions of well-known stories.
- Make a simple book together using photos of a day out or pictures of toys from a catalogue – encourage your child to write labels for the pictures.



Please note these general reminders...

- ✓ The Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum provides learning opportunities through activities inside and outside the classroom. As the weather gets cooler we advise that your child wears a warm coat (with their name in it) to school, in order for them to experience outside play. We are outside in most weathers! We would also appreciate if the children could have a spare pair of wellies and clothing within school as outdoor play can be messy!
- ✓ PE lessons in the hall will take place once a week, please ensure your child is wearing a vest on Wednesdays. Make sure all items of clothing are named. There is no set outdoors PE time in Foundation Stage as the children are outside and active throughout the week.
- ✓ We encourage bottles of water to be sent with each child. These are kept in class and children have free access to them. Please make sure they are named and not placed in book bags.
- ✓ As you can see we ask parents to label EVERYTHING with your child's name (including all clothing, ties, hats, gloves, water bottles, and lunchboxes).
- ✓ We ask for a voluntary contribution of £1 per week to our fund money, the tin and class lists are located in the classrooms. Thank you for making this valuable donation it really makes a difference to the resources and activities that we can offer your child.
- ✓ 'Junk' for models and creative activities is always welcome e.g. pots, boxes, newspapers etc. Please send in what you can as the children use it constantly!! Class teachers will also put up specific requests for particular projects.

- ✓ Home time can be very busy with 60 children to see out safely, so we ask for you to stand well back so that both children and staff can see parents clearly. Thank-you for your support and patience with our shared entrance and home time routine.
- ✓ If your child is going home with a relative or another parent please tell staff in the morning or call school to inform them during the day. We will not permit anyone to take your child if we have not been advised by you.

Again, please ask staff if you have any further questions.

Many thanks,

Miss Hill, Mrs Woodhouse, Mrs Oxley and Mrs Lamb