

Early Years Foundation Stage Newsletter

Welcome to Reception! We hope your child has found their first days at school to be an enjoyable and happy experience. It has been a pleasure to welcome them in and we look forward to getting to know them better and helping them to progress in their development.

Communication between school and home is very important and we hope newsletters are one way we can provide you with up-to-date information about the experiences your child is having in school.

Our topic for this term is *'Paddington and Friends'* and, as with all our work in the Foundation Stage, the topic will involve a strong emphasis on practical activities to develop the children's learning. Below is a summary of some of the activities in which the children will take part.

Personal, Social & Emotional development	Communication and Language	Physical development
We will use 'My Happy Mind' to help create a positive mental wellbeing culture in which children build resilience, self-esteem, and character. Additionally, the children will learn strategies to help them with new beginnings and starting school. They will be supported in learning the classroom routines and rules and making friendships.	In oracy, communication and language the children will know rhymes and use a wider range of vocabulary. They will enjoy listening to longer stories and try to remember much of what happens, they will develop their communication including irregular tenses and plurals. They will also sing a large repertoire of songs.	This term the children will introduced to Physical Education and structured movement through the topic of 'fantasy and adventure' and 'everyday life'. Fundamental skills will include balancing, running, changing direction, jumping, hopping and travelling. The children will develop their fine motor skills so that they can use a range of tools competently, safely and confidently.
Literacy		Mathematics
In Autumn 1 the children will learn through the story 'Peace at Last' by Jill Murphy. They will also look at stories about Paddington Bear. The children will use story images to join in with key events and phrases in a retelling of the story. In Autumn 2 the children will develop their literacy skills through the text 'The Journey Home' by Emma Levey, a fiction story about journeys and the value of family. They will begin to use some of their knowledge of print to make invitations and cards.		During the first half-term, the children will learn to recognise, represent, and manipulate numbers to 5. They will focus on comparing two groups of objects and correctly identifying which has more, fewer or whether they have the same amount. In Autumn 2, the children will explore 3D and 2D shapes as well as focusing on positional language. They will find one more and one less than a number within 5 and concentrate on number bonds to 5 in the context of a part-whole model.
Understanding the world		Expressive Arts and Design
In our learning we will use the text 'Houses and Homes' to talk about different kinds of houses around the world. We will talk about members of our immediate family and show some sense of our own history. We will consider what we can do now and how we have changed since we were babies. In our RE lessons, we will learn about baptism in churches.		Throughout the term we will be creating self-portraits as part of our settling in period. We will create collages of bears and learn about the use of paper and other materials for collage effects. We will make firework pictures for Bonfire night and create Christmas cards and presents for our families. We will complete sound stories with musical instruments to fit with the story 'We're going on a Bear Hunt'.

Our School Rule

We should smile, be friendly and care for one another

Be well mannered and polite

Speak the truth

Be fair

Treat each other with respect and how you would like to be treated

Be the best you can be

School Values



Naturally, we expect a high standard of behaviour and attitude as it is important to achieve a happy and purposeful classroom.

Teaching Assistant Support

There will be full-time support in both the Reception classes.

PE Days

The children will be getting changed for PE before each lesson so they will need to have their PE bag in school. These will be sent home at the end of a half term for washing. PE kits should include shorts and their house-coloured t- shirt. Games lessons will take place outside so please ensure that your child has warm clothing and trainers. Please ensure that your child's kit is in school from Monday 11th September and all items are clearly marked with your child's name. Our PE lessons will take place on a Monday and Wednesday.

The children will also be very active on Fridays in their Forest Friday sessions and will need to wear joggers and their usual uniform t- shirt and jumper/ cardigan. If possible, please provide a pair of wellies to stay in school.

Phonics and Reading

In phonics we follow the Read Write Inc programme. The children will be introduced to a sound a day in school, and we will send a link each day via Dojo to a short video so you can reinforce at home, including letter formation. Please use pure sounds rather than letter names. When the children can blend, we will then move to sound books which link to the letters we will be learning in our phonics sessions and your child will bring these home on a Friday. The Read Write Inc books link closely with the phonics being taught in school.

Reading Records

Please comment in your child's reading record. It is invaluable to teachers to know that your child is receiving support from home in reading and phonics. Please aim to read with your child for 15 minutes every night. We endeavour to listen to your child read one to one and through guided reading.

Baseline assessment

Your child will be participating in the reception baseline assessment (RBA) within the first 6 weeks of starting reception. The RBA is a short, interactive and practical assessment of your child's early literacy, communication, language and mathematics skills when they begin school, using materials that most children of your child's age will be familiar with. It became statutory for all schools from September 2021. The purpose of the assessment is to help parents understand how well schools support their pupils to progress between reception and year 6.

Tapestry

We use Tapestry to build a very special record of your child's experiences, development and learning journey through their reception year. Please look out for a letter regarding setting up your access to your child's Tapestry online learning Journey.

Class Dojo

Throughout the school we run the Class Dojo incentive. The children earn Dojo points throughout the week and will be rewarded with a certificate in class if they win the highest number of points. Additionally, the winning house will wear own clothes on Mondays. Please check the sway which will be sent home on a Friday. The children are already showing a keen interest in this and are very excited about earning points. You will also be able to contact us via the Dojo app and instructions on how to set this up came home in a separate letter.

Please note we will only reply to messages within the school day. No messages will be replied to in the evening or at the weekends. Dojo is monitored at points throughout the day but not continually as we are teaching, and our priority is the children. Please speak with the office for any urgent issues or last-minute home time arrangements for that day. We ask that you report absences through the school office and not via Dojo as the school office staff will then amend the registers accordingly.

Good to be Green

We have a whole-school behaviour and reward system called 'Good to be Green'. The children start every day on a green card. If a child chooses not to follow the classroom/school rules, they will be given a verbal warning. The children know this is their time to think about making the right choice and follow the rules. If they continue to make the wrong choice, then they will be given a yellow card. If the child continues to break the rules, they may get a red card which leads to five minutes being taken from their playtime. If your child receives two red cards in one day, we will inform you either by phone or a discussion at the end of the day. Although we have a selection of reward systems, we feel it is important that children do understand there are consequences of continued poor behaviour, and it is part of behaviour policy.

Menu

We ask that you submit your child's menu choices by **Friday at midday** for the following week. We are very lucky that the children have the opportunity to pre-order their lunch and Mrs Grady and her team work very hard to provide tasty and healthy meals for the children to enjoy. We really appreciate your support in completing the menus online as this allows us to start the day promptly.

Snack Time

The children are entitled to free fruit each day for their snack as well as being able to purchase items from the 'Snack Shack' at morning playtime. Examples include toast for 20p, bagel for 30p and crumpets and teacakes for 50p. Should you wish your child to have a snack from the 'snack shack', please ensure that they bring in a named purse or envelope with the money in.

We would appreciate it if you could send in a full water bottle each day with your child as they will be encouraged to drink water throughout the day. Additionally, as you are probably already aware you can purchase milk.

Dates for your diary

- Thursday 28th September 2023 – European Languages Day
- Thursday 5th October 2023 – EYFS curriculum evening

Polite reminders

- Please remember a filled water bottle, a waterproof coat and your child's book bag each day.
- Please complete a lunch menu by midday each Friday on the school spider app.
- Please ensure all school uniform, including shoes, are named.
- Please remember to look on school spider, and read the weekly newsletter, to keep up to date with other events that will be happening within school.

We will not allow your child to leave school unless we recognise the adult. Please do let us know any regular home time arrangements and if there are any changes then please contact the office who will pass on your message. If for any reason you are late, please sign in at the office.

As you can see, we have a wonderful term ahead and we are sure that your child will enjoy all the new opportunities and experiences that Reception has to offer. Please do not hesitate to contact us at any point if you have any queries or concerns.

Thank you for your support and co-operation. We look forward to meeting you all.

The EYFS Team