

A huge warm welcome to Reception! I hope you all had a lovely summer and I look forward to getting to know you and the children. The children are settling very well and have had a wonderful first week.

This half term our topic is called 'What makes me me? We will learn about ourselves, our senses, our feelings and families. Our learning will be based around a range of stories including The Colour Monster, Amazing Me, All Kinds of Families and Owl Babies.

Staff: Both myself and Mrs Cook work full time. Mrs Peters will teach the children on Wednesday afternoon for an hour to cover my PPA. Mrs Cook will be on the door at this time.

Physical

We will develop the children's gross and fine motor skills daily through a range of fun activities.

Children will be having dance on a Thursday and they can wear their PE kits for the whole day. Please can we ask that on a Friday they bring their PE kit in (alternate weeks to forest school) as they will need them that day. On the forest school day please send in forest school kits.

We will go to woodlands for Forest School on alternate Friday afternoons, commencing on **Friday 14th September**. Please send a change of clothes and wellies suitable for the woods each week.

Whilst we will of course always help and support children in getting changed it would be helpful to support your child gain independence in getting dressed and undressed as well as doing up zips.

Reception

Autumn Term 2024

What Makes Me, Me?



Maths

Children will take part in daily maths activities including a short whole class session.

We will focus on comparing, representing and the composition of numbers 1, 2 and 3.

The children will have access to a range of practical, fun maths activities in the areas of provision both indoors and outside helping them to develop a secure and in-depth understanding of number.

PSED

Children will have one jigsaw session per week to teach aspects of personal, social and emotional development. This term we will be focusing on 'being me'.

Phonics and Reading

We follow a phonics scheme called Little Wandle. The children will receive a daily phonics lesson. This will include teaching new sounds, letter formation, reading and writing. I will share with you the new sounds and words the children learn each week on a home learning sheet. Please support your child at home to learn to recognise these sounds and words.

Children will read with the Class teacher three times per week. Please ensure your child brings their reading record into school Monday-Wednesday so that we can stamp their reading record so you know they have completed their reads. Every Wednesday your child will receive their Little Wandle reading book which they have read in school already. This is to read again at home. We recommend reading this book 3 times at home to aid fluency and progression. These reads should be fluent and expressive and encourage lots of conversations about characters, feelings, themes in the story and your child's own opinions about the book. **Please** can all books be returned in your child's clear reading packet along with their reading records on **Monday** so we can organise books ready to go back home on Wednesday.

Children will also bring home a 'sharing story' each Wednesday that they will choose themselves. Please return this the following Monday. Sharing stories are to be shared together, we do not expect the children to read them, we hope they will help to develop a love of books and reading.

Learning starts at home

Learning in Reception is all about children exploring through their ideas and interests. So that we can support this as much as we can in the classroom, we will soon be linking you up with our online learning journeys named Tapestry. This is an excellent system which allows us to share with you your children's learning. To ensure that we have a full picture of your child we ask that you observe at home too and upload any exciting times, achievements etc. onto this system. The children really do enjoy sharing their pictures with each other in class.

Things to keep or bring into school

The weather as we know can be very unpredictable and the weather may become colder as the term progresses. Children will need a warm coat and hat. It will also be helpful for the children to bring in their own pair of wellies which we can leave in school and use when the weather takes a turn for the worse in woodlands as well as on the playground.

It is also beneficial to put a spare change of clothes in the children's bag should it be needed as we have a very limited supply of spare clothes.

Snack

Children should have a named water bottle; we will send this home daily and ask that all water bottles **only contain water** to prevent sticky spillages. In the classroom we have a snack table, here the children can keep their water bottle, the children are free to have a drink whenever they need. All children are offered milk free until they are five. (Providing the relevant form has been completed) Children are offered a fruit snack in the morning, if you wish to send an additional **small** snack please ensure it is healthy, (e.g. cracker, fruit, raisins) and **MUST NOT CONTAIN NUTS**.

General Notices

Please can I remind you to encourage children not to bring toys etc.. into school. As I am sure you can appreciate, if they get lost or broken whilst at school it can cause upset to your child.

We encourage the children to line up patiently at the end of playtimes and lunchtimes before entering school, it would be helpful if you could also encourage this when waiting to enter school on a morning. We understand that the children can be excited to see their friends however for their safety and that of others they should not be allowed to run or play on the equipment or grass. This also prevents any accidents and encourages the children to be ready to learn when they enter school calmly.

We look forward to getting to know you and your children over the year and if you need to speak to me then please contact the office to arrange a telephone call or appointment.

Many thanks for your support,

Mrs Katie Braham

