



Information for Parents Autumn Term Reception

We would like to begin our first newsletter with a big welcome to all of our new Reception children and their parents. We have had a lovely start to the year after what has been a challenging few months for many of us. We cannot wait to share all of the exciting things we will be doing this half term. If you have any additional questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us via email or telephone. Thank you for your support.

Miss Dawson, Mrs Days and Mrs Bryant.

Topic

This half term our topic is 'All About Me'. Not only do we want to learn about your children but we want your children to learn that they are all unique individuals. We will be celebrating our similarities and differences, talking about our families and sharing our special family traditions such as birthday and holidays. We would love for the children to bring a family photo which we can display in our classroom.

Phonics

We have already begun working on our phonics through rhyming games, distinguishing between real and silly sounds and going on a listening walk where we talked about the sounds we can hear in our environment. Soon we will begin the next phase of our phonics work following the Jollyphonics programme. This involves the children learning four new sounds each week and beginning to blend the sounds together to read words. Repetition is key to learning phonics; we will recap each of our sounds before learning a new one and will revisit the weeks sounds each Friday. Please support your child in learning their new sound by asking them to share it with you each night and encouraging them to complete their daily phonics workbooks. Children are often keen to race through their sounds but it is only necessary to complete one per night. (Monday-Thursday)

Communication, Language and Literacy

We provide daily 'finger gym' activities for children to develop their fine motor skills which will help to strengthen their muscles and movement in their fingers and hands. This will allow children to hold a pencil correctly and begin to form letters correctly as they prepare for writing.

We will be sharing lots of stories as a class and we encourage children to join in with rhymes and sentences which are repeated throughout the book. We also prompt discussion about the stories we have read through questions about the characters or events.

As we progress through our phonics, we will begin to recognise initial sounds, end sounds and then all sounds before they blend them together to read the word. In preparation for early reading, the children will soon bring home a story book to share with you for a few minutes each night. At first, this may be a story with no words but you can still help them develop their understanding of the story through discussing what is happening on each page. You can also encourage children to turn each page carefully and identify the title of the book.

Mathematics

The children will talk about their daily routine by looking at our visual timetable as well as discussing the date and weather each morning.

We will begin our numeracy lessons by identifying one number per day. For example, when looking at the number 1, we will discuss different ways of representing 1 (1 finger, 1 teddy bear), as well as talking about money (1p, £1) and 2D shapes with 1 side (circle). We will build on this over our first term. The children should then be confident in ordering numbers to at least 10. As we discuss each number, we will work on its formation in order for children to be able to write them. We will also look at addition by joining two groups.

Religious Education

Our first topic is 'My Home and Family'. We will talk about and the children will recognise that God's loving presence is in every home. For further information, please read the religious education letter for parents.

