



September 2019

Dear Parents,

TO PARENTS OF RECEPTION – Information 2019-2020

Welcome back! We hope that you have all had a pleasant and relaxing summer and are looking forward to starting the new academic year. We are very much looking forward to welcoming your child to Reception and meeting you all. We will be working closely with you to ensure that your child has a productive and happy time at school.

Reception class teachers are Morah Alexandra, Morah Bilha, Morah Elisheva and Aunty Dina. The children have specialist teachers for PE, Yoga and Music.

This letter will inform you about the routines and expectations for children in their Reception year. We will follow the 'Early Years Foundation Stage' otherwise known as the EYFS. For further information please look at the DfE website. A useful resource is What To Expect When, link here: https://www.foundationyears.org.uk/files/2015/03/4Children_ParentsGuide_2015_WEB.pdf

This is a programme designed to help children achieve what are known as the 'Early Learning Goals'. These are targets that most children are expected to achieve by the time they leave the Reception class. This will provide a firm foundation for National Curriculum work in Year 1.

In the Reception class we focus on seven areas of learning. They are:

1. Personal, Social and Emotional Development;
2. Physical Development;
3. Communication and Language;
4. Literacy;
5. Mathematics;
6. Expressive Arts and Design;
7. Understanding the World;

Included is the information detailing the curriculum material we intend to cover throughout the year. Please remember that each child's progress will be at different rates and individual achievements will vary.

Each week there will be a focus child who will be observed in all their areas of learning, to see how they are developing and growing. These observations will be uploaded to Tapestry for you to see. We include the characteristics of effective learning in the weekly long observation. These are the ways in which your child learns. We welcome you to add your own contributions about your child's achievements at home.

Throughout the year we will be assessing your child's progress in order to see how we can take their learning forward to the next stage. Every Friday you will receive a Reception newsletter, detailing what your child has covered at school that week, in all areas of learning and any important information parents need to know for the week ahead.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Personal, social and emotional development involves helping children develop a positive sense of themselves, and others. We hope to reinforce positive relationships and respect for one another. This is achieved through circle time and choosing time, where children will develop social skills and learn how to manage their feelings. They need to understand appropriate behaviour in our setting; and have confidence in their own abilities.

Our aim is to encourage the children in establishing good working relationships with other children and adults. We also help them to respect others by taking turns and sharing fairly. By the end of the year, we expect that children should be able to concentrate for sustained periods, be able to work as a group and also independently. Roles of responsibility are given within the class such as two helpers to collect the register every day. Staff will set rules for the classroom and these will be clearly displayed for the children to see. Our hope is that Reception children will be confident, happy and motivated to learn.

Physical Development

Our P.E. lessons are taken by a specialist sports organisation. Physical Development involves providing opportunities for young children to be active and interactive; and to develop their co-ordination, control, and movement. The children will also be helped to understand the importance of physical activity, and to make healthy choices in relation to food. We will also be having weekly Yoga sessions to teach breathing control and relaxation techniques to the children, to help them manage their behaviour.

Physical development is essential in order for the children to write. Throughout Reception the children will be learning to develop their fine motor and gross motor skills. Children need a strong core and upper body to enable them to write. They also require good dexterity with their fingers and wrists, to enable them to hold a pencil and form letters correctly. Activities that will help this include: monkey bars, climbing, swimming, threading beads, opening doors using keys, manipulating play dough etc.

P.E:

Reception P.E. will take place on **Thursday**; Yoga will be on a **Tuesday**. During the autumn term, children will not change into their P.E. kit. Please make sure your child keeps a pair of plimsolls/trainers at school for P.E. which they will change into. After the Pesach holidays, the children will change into their full P.E. kits gradually at school. Please ensure they have the following: blue tracksuit bottoms, yellow school t-shirt and plimsolls or trainers. All items need to be clearly labelled with the child's first and last name, to avoid any confusion. Schools are required to provide an opportunity for children to learn to dress and undress themselves which is one of the Early Learning Goals that the children are working towards.

Communication and Language

Communication and Language development involves giving children opportunities to actively listen and pay attention at required times. We will also expect children to show their understanding throughout a range of activities, such as following instructions, listening and responding to stories and answering questions.



Children are encouraged to talk during group discussions, covering a variety of topics and events in children's lives. During classroom discussions, we will talk about things such as kindness to one another, manners, cleanliness, friendships and sharing. We encourage the children to listen to and value each other's opinions and take turns in conversations.

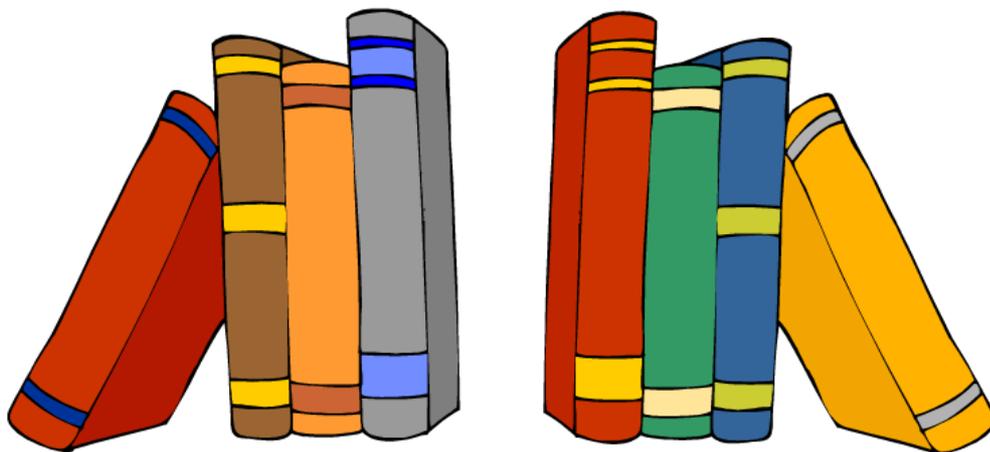
Literacy (including reading, phonics and written language)

To reach the Literacy Early Learning Goals, we will encourage children to link sounds and letters and to begin to read and write. They will also become familiar with a variety of 'tricky' sight words which they will learn by memory. We will ensure they are exposed to a wide range of reading materials and encourage you to mirror this at home.

Reading

The school use the following reading schemes: Dandelion Readers. Your child's language comprehension will be developed through illustrations, comprehension exercises, pictures and lots of story time. We will continue to reinforce phonics and will be focusing on developing pre-reading skills. Reading books will not be sent home until the children are ready. We want the children to enjoy reading, so it is important that we teach the children the correct skills before expecting them to read.

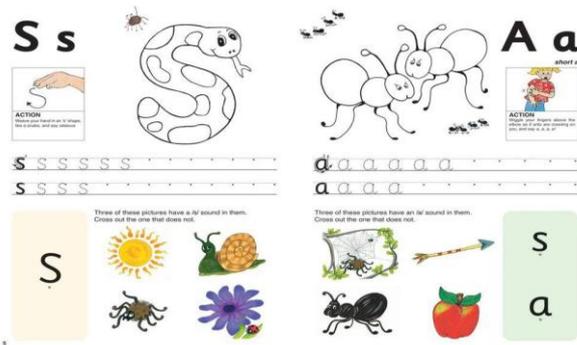
Children will be asked questions about what they have read and about stories and poems which we have been reading to them. We are hopeful that they will become confident in predicting what may occur during a story, recognise features of stories and develop understanding of what they read. This will also be developed through their own reading from their reading packet each day. Please record your child's reading in their reading log. We ask that the school reading book is kept in your child's book bag and brought to school every day.



Handwriting

Handwriting is closely tied to phonics at this stage. We do not teach children the letters in the same order as the alphabet, but in the order taught using Letters and Sounds. Letter formation will also be taught following this scheme. An example of this would be when the children learn the sound 's' they will learn the phoneme (sound) and how to write that grapheme (written letter) and which direction. Using visual illustrations clues as seen below help children to

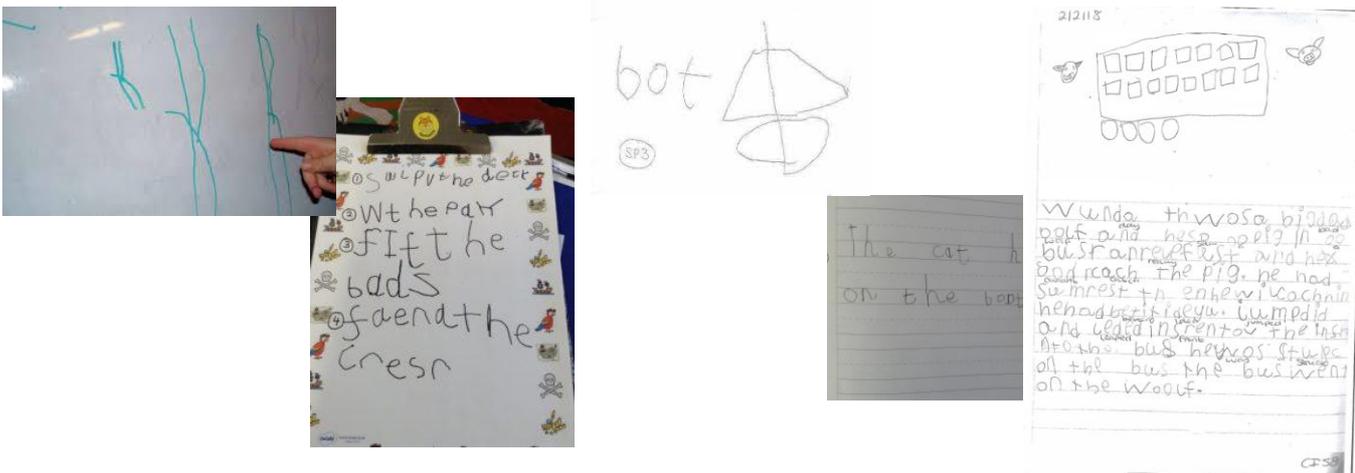
remember and recognise each sound. We encourage children to write on the line in Reception, although this is not an expectation by the end of Reception.



The children will learn how to hold a pencil correctly: the correct writing posture, starting point, and direction of the English language, which is read from left to right. It is hoped that children will recognise their name and write their name appropriately i.e. with proper use of lower and upper case letters.

Writing

In Reception we encourage children to write for different purposes, such as lists, labels and captions in their play. Once the children have learnt the first set of sounds, they will be expected to 'sound out' the words that they need to write. This is called segmenting. Some words cannot be spelled out, such as, the, we, me and my. These are called 'tricky words' and children are expected to know how to spell these words off by heart. The children will be learning new sounds and tricky words every week, it is important that you consolidate their learning at home by reading with them and looking for sounds in the environment around them. This will aid them in their writing ability. By the end of Reception, we expect all children to be able to write simple sentences independently. The words do not have to be spelt correctly, unless they are tricky words, but they should be spelt phonetically. For example, 'house' might be spelt 'h-ow-s'. Here are some examples of children's writing throughout Reception.



At first children will begin to 'mark make', this is where they begin to show an interest in writing. This usually starts early on in Nursery or beginning of Reception. These marks will soon develop into basic pictures and children will begin to give meanings to their marks. For example, in the first picture the child might say 'Look, there is me, there is my mum and my dad'. Following this the children will begin to write lots of different letters on the page, imitating writing. At first they may not know what they are trying to write, but enjoy copying the letter shapes. As their understanding develops, they will begin to write simple words, such as in the third picture. The child has written 'bot' (boat) next to their picture of a boat. As they continue to learn more sounds and consolidate their understanding of the language, they will begin to write simple sentences and eventually whole paragraphs! Writing is tricky and every

child will develop at their own pace. It is not something that can be rushed but reading with your children regularly will help aid this process.

Mathematics

Throughout the year we will aim to provide children with opportunities to develop and improve their skills in numbers, shapes, space and measures.

We will expect children to develop their knowledge, understanding and formation of the numbers up to 20 and possibly beyond, depending on individual progress. We will introduce them to the basic processes involved in simple addition and subtraction. Children also learn the days of the week and months of the year. Children's understanding of flat 2D shapes (such as a square, triangle, rectangle, and circle) is reinforced and solid 3D shapes (cube, cuboid, sphere, cylinder, and cone) are introduced. Children will have access to sand and water trays with different sized containers which will help promote a basic understanding of volume and capacity. Children will use non-standard measures such as blocks and hand spans as an introduction to measurement.

We hope that children will relate mathematics to their everyday lives. Examples of the uses of numbers include: the number of their front door, phone number and birthday. Coin recognition and simple shopping sums help children to realise the use of Maths processes in daily living. Throughout the year correct mathematical language and terminology is introduced and reiterated through practical and hands on activities. As in every area of learning, consolidation, reinforcement and extension activities cater for individual differences in children's development.

Expressive Arts and Design

In Reception children are given many opportunities take part in creative activities such as painting, drawings and other craft activities. Children will use a range of materials, suitable tools and resources to represent what they see, hear, touch, feel and learn. All work in Reception is created by the child, it is their master piece. Adults will help children develop their skills, however, they are free to complete it in whichever way they wish.

Music and Movement is taught during the week. Twice a week the children will have a session with a specialist Music teacher. We have a home corner to allow children to role play. We have lots of puppets, dressing up clothes and small world figures for them to enjoy too.

Understanding the World

Understanding the World is an introduction to the skills and processes children need for Science, History and Geography.

Each term the children will cover different topics- this will develops children's curiosity and observational skills. We hope that through practical and investigative work children will discover and learn more about themselves, others and the world they live in.

Computing

Children in Reception will become familiar with the Interactive Whiteboard throughout the day. The Whiteboard is touch and pen sensitive, and therefore completely interactive. It contributes towards the delivery of educational and engaging lessons for all areas of learning.

In the classroom children will have access to educational programs on the class Ipad.



The children will be introduced to the first concepts of computer programming initially through the use of programmable toys such as 'Beebots'.

Other important information:

The Reception doors open at 8:40am and Tefillah starts at 8:45am. We do encourage you to arrive between 8:30-8:40am so we can start the day promptly. Our day is divided into five 'lessons', three Secular and two Kodesh.

Homework:

Kodesh: Homework will be given out on a Thursday and will be due back by the following Wednesday.

Secular: We ask that you read with your child every day for 10 minutes and practise any sounds or tricky words that they have learnt that week. New learning will be written in the weekly newsletter. As the children learn new topics, practical homework will be given out occasionally.

All homework is to be placed in the baskets in the corridor.

Shabbat Party:

Shabbat parties are celebrated every Friday with Morah Elisheva. A rota will be sent out for Shabbat Abba and Imma. When your child is Abba, we ask you to bring a medium bottle of grape juice and biscuits. Imma should please bring two medium challot.

Birthday: Parties are celebrated on a date that is mutually convenient at 3.00pm. Please email the class teacher to arrange. Please send in two nut free plain birthday cakes, serviettes and candles.

Uniform: Children are expected to wear uniform everyday. There will be many messy activities for the children to get stuck into. All children will be given an apron, but sometimes they will make a mess – this is what uniform is for. Please make sure that you only allow children to wear shoes and coats that can get messy.

We do hope that this letter offers you a greater knowledge and understanding of what your child will be doing each day and the exciting things that they will be learning. If you ever have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

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