

## Reception Newsletter Autumn Term 2018

### Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the new school year! We are excited that your child will be joining us this term and we are pleased to be a part of the children's learning journeys. As before, we will be sharing the planning and teaching of your children and of course, Mrs Heard, and Miss Weeks will still be very much a part of your child's life. We are sure all of the children will settle in quickly.

Here is some information about the Autumn Term which we hope you will find useful. We will continue to offer a wide range of play-based learning opportunities in Class F based on our topic this term, which is 'Rhymes and Festivals', and incorporating all seven areas of the Foundation Stage Curriculum. In addition, we will include some focussed sessions specially geared towards Reception each morning and afternoon.

### Phonics:

Each day we have a session following the Letters and Sounds Teaching Programme which splits the teaching of phonics into 6 phases. Miss Mellody will lead the sessions on Monday to Wednesday and Miss Bellew will lead the sessions on Thursday and Friday. We intend the majority of Reception to start at phase 2. In Phase 2, letters and their sounds are introduced one at a time. The letters are taught in sets, in the following sequence:

**Set 1:** s, a, t, p

**Set 2:** i, n, m, d

**Set 3:** g, o, c, k

**Set 4:** ck, e, u, r

**Set 5:** h, b, f, ff, l, ll, ss

As soon as each set of letters is introduced, children will be encouraged to use their knowledge of the letter sounds to blend and sound out words. For example, they will learn to blend the sounds s-a-t to make the word **sat**. They will also start learning to segment words. For example, they might be asked to find the letter sounds that make the word **tap** from a small selection of magnetic letters. Although these skills sound very similar, you may find that your child picks up one quickly but takes a little time to master the other. This is not at all unusual.

(A word about language – you may hear us refer to graphemes and phonemes from time to time. A phoneme is the sound a letter or group of letters makes. A grapheme is the written form of that sound. We also teach the children the terms upper and lower case as they will soon see both in books and around the school.)

### Other Literacy:

The revised Early Year Foundation Stage (EYFS) Curriculum has made 'Language and Communication' (ahead of reading and writing) a prime area of learning for our youngest class and so we will continue to make sure that all our work has a strong focus on speaking, listening and developing vocabulary. Alongside that we will be encouraging reading with fluency and understanding, and writing for a purpose eg writing lists and letters in the role play area, making labels for models etc.

### Maths:

Maths in the EYFS is very much concerned with laying the foundations for later Maths learning so we will be developing a thorough understanding of the numbers 0 – 20 by:

- developing an image of number using dominoes, dice and Numicon blocks,
- comparing and matching groups of objects,
- doing simple addition and subtraction to solve practical problems,
- counting forwards and backwards, sometimes from different starting points, to find answers to real life questions, and
- finding one more and one less.

The children will also be developing their use of everyday language to describe and compare size, weight, capacity, time, position and distance.

### Music

As well as regular adult-led sessions, music is often part of our continuous provision. It tends to be a very sociable activity which allows children to play and/or sing in a group or on their own in front of peers, take turns and follow instructions. Children engage in active learning by playing song games and instruments, exploring sounds and learning sound association. They also have opportunities to experiment and dance with ribbons, instruments and scarves both inside and out of the classroom.

## Computing

In Class F we want to give the children regular opportunities to develop their computing skills in meaningful ways, through easy access to the computers, Beebots, Easy Ears, Sound Pegs, CD players and cameras, as well as thorough the use of telephones, mobiles, video cameras etc in their role play.

## PE:

In addition to the taught sessions on Monday and Friday mornings in Class F, Reception children also have PE on Wednesday afternoons. Please note our new uniform for PE; black or grey shorts, royal blue T shirt and a pair of plimsolls or trainers. All jewellery including earrings must be removed for these lessons. Please could the reception children have a PE kit in school for Wednesday's lesson. Mrs Heard currently leads these sessions.

## Understanding the World/ Expressive Arts and Design

As we mentioned above, our topic for this term is 'Rhymes and Festivals'. We will cover this broadly in the morning sessions in Class F, and then develop some of themes more deeply during the afternoons, particularly on a Thursday afternoon with Miss Bellew. This will allow the Reception children to extend the topic through activities in Science, Art, Design Technology, History and Geography.

On Tuesday afternoons, I will be teaching RE and looking at the theme of 'Festivals, Food and Autumn Colours'. I am particularly keen for the children to see how we celebrate the harvest season in this country and how this compares to the way it is celebrated in other countries and cultures.

## Homework:

The main homework in Class F will be reading and learning to read and spell tricky words. We aim to change the children's books once a week and are always interested to hear how they get on with you at home, so please let us know through the Home-School Diaries in the book bags. These can also be used to pass on any questions that you may have, if you think that you might not have chance to speak to us in the morning. You will quickly find that the most common words in our language, and the ones we focus on first here, make up a huge percentage of written text: a wonderful experience for young children is the read a book with you, with them reading the words they recognise or can decode and you reading the rest. It will surprise you how many of the books you have at home or from the library can be read like this from an early stage.

We will sending home log books for you to see around half term but are always happy to speak with you at the beginning or end of the day – please come and talk to us if you have any questions at all. If it is not just a convenient moment, we are always able to make an appointment to meet later.

Many thanks!

Miss Mellody and Miss Bellew

