

# Information for Parents

## RECEPTION CLASS

ADVENT /AUTUMN TERM 2018/19



Here is an outline of what we will be covering in our learning this term. However, we also take into account the children's interests and curiosity and this will also support our planning on a week by week basis.

Please help us support your child as much as possible by checking on our dojo regularly for class updates, checking their homework diary when it is sent home and share stories and talk together as much as possible.

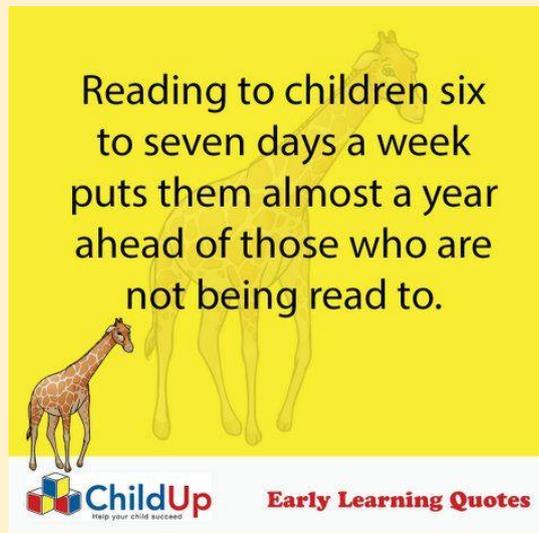
**Mrs Weaver** (Class Teacher)

**Mrs Hill** (Teaching Assistant/PPA Cover Mon, Tue, Thurs, Fri)

**Mrs Wolfe** (Teaching Assistant Wed, Thurs, Fri)

**Mrs Machado** (1:1 Support)

# Literacy and Communication and Language



We are continuing to work on **Phase 1 phonics** in Reception, which your child would have been working on in their nursery class.

Phase one phonics develops the children's listening skills - if children are unable to listen, pick out different sounds in the environment or have limited awareness of songs and music, then they may struggle to learn to read and write. When we learn to read we pick out sounds in words and blend them together and when we write or spell, we are pulling out the sounds we hear in a word. Phase 1 phonics is the building blocks and foundations to your children being successful readers! If you would like to read a little more about the phonics phases children will move through in FS and Year one, then here is a helpful link.

<https://www.theschoolrun.com/what-are-phonics-phases>

If you want to help your child become the best reader they can be, then read a story to them everyday (your home language is fine), encourage them to listen out to sounds in the environment (birds, cars etc), sing nursery rhymes and read stories with rhyme, tap out rhythms with homemade instruments, locate hidden sounds in a room, dancing to different music and alliterate their names and objects to tune them in to initial sounds (e.g. I spy a c c c c carrot)

Important things to remember about writing. The children are in the very early stages of writing and need to have many things in place for them to become

successful writers! These include: **good physical strength** (gained through climbing, running, cycling, swimming, playdough and finger songs etc)

Please **talk** to your child about everything you and they do, as talk is the building blocks to becoming a good reader and writer. We are always encouraging children to speak and answer in full sentences to support their language development and this will impact on their future writing!

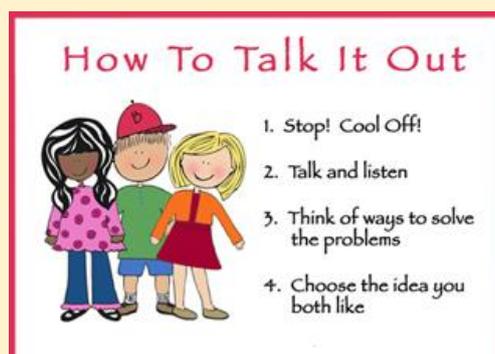
## Personal, social and emotional development



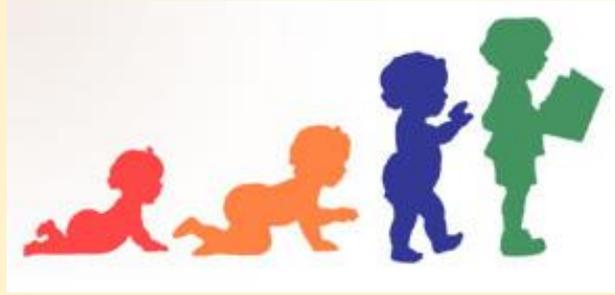
In Reception we enjoy circle times when we learn about rules, friendships and feelings, especially addressing any issues that are being observed in class.

We use a lot of scripted phrases to support the children in their play and teach them the skills of conflict resolution that are crucial for life. If children don't learn to negotiate with others in their play, using specific strategies (usually talk or non-aggressive actions - like moving away) then they will be faced with many challenges throughout their school years and life.

If we can get it right in the Foundation Stage, then the foundations are laid for the rest of their life and their friendships and own personal well-being will flourish.



# Physical Development



## GUIDELINES FROM THE Department of Health

1. Children of pre-school age who are capable of walking unaided should be physically active daily for at least 180 minutes (3 hours), spread throughout the day.
2. All under 5s should minimise the amount of time spent being sedentary (being restrained or sitting) for extended periods (except time spent sleeping).  
Most UK children currently spend 120-150 minutes a day in physical activity, so achieving this guideline would mean adding another 30-60 minutes per day.

## P.E.

We have a P.E. slot on a Tuesday afternoon and this term the children will enjoy Kimbles Music and movement as well as a balance-ability session on balance bikes.



Please ensure your child's P.E. kit is in school and support them to change independently.

If you don't go to swimming or have the opportunity for riding bikes etc then please take your child out to the park as often as you can and encourage them to be as physically active as possible - the impact this has on their learning and ability to listen and attend is huge.

# Mathematics



In Reception this term we will be beginning a mastery approach to maths, where we ensure the children really work on their number sense. We will do two weeks on each numeral and really immerse the children in this number and what the value of that number really is, as we find children can recognise some numerals and can count by rote (saying the numbers in order), but their actual understanding of number value is not as advanced and this then impacts on their ability to use and apply numbers later in Reception, KS1 and 2, when they come to formally calculate.

We will be giving you home challenges based on the number we are working on week by week and this may be as simple as looking for that number in the environment, finding and counting that many items when out and about. e.g. 3 mangos in Tesco and doing an action a particular number of times. This way you are supporting the children to really get that overall sense that a number means "that many things".

We will soon begin with zero and one, where we will be doing huge range of activities linked to these; from stories and song sessions, actions and formation to pattern and shape.

## Understanding the World



We will be asking for your input of your child's ability to use technology at home and...

- Complete a simple program on a computer.

We will also provide opportunities for children to:

- Use ICT hardware to interact with age-appropriate computer software.
- Look closely at similarities, differences, patterns and change.
- Enjoy joining in with family customs and routines.

## Expressive arts and design



We will be providing modelling opportunities during whole class teaching but also provision time and using the children's own ideas to:

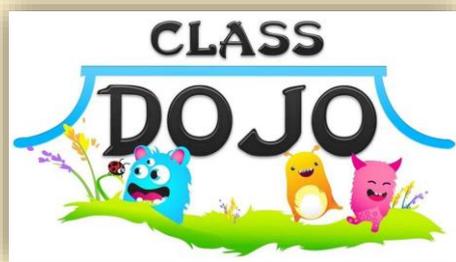
- build a repertoire of songs and dances.
- Explore the different sounds of instruments.
- Explore what happens when they mix colours.
- Experiment to create different textures.
- Understand that different media can be combined to create new effects.
- Manipulate materials to achieve a planned effect.
- Construct with a purpose in mind, using a variety of resources.
- Use simple tools and techniques competently and appropriately.
- Select appropriate resources and adapts work where necessary.
- Select tools and techniques needed to shape, assemble and join materials they are using.
- Create simple representations of events, people and objects.
- Initiate new combinations of movement and gesture in order to express and respond to feelings, ideas and experiences.
- Choose particular colours to use for a purpose.
- Introduce a storyline or narrative into their play.
- Play cooperatively as part of a group to develop and act out a narrative.

# Religious Education



This term in Reception we will be beginning our R.E. topic 'MYSELF' and learning how we are all one of God's special children and how He knows us all by name. Talk to your child about their name, how special it is and can see if they recognise it independently? We will then move onto the topic of Advent and learn about Jesus' birth and the special time of Christmas that surrounds it.

## DOJO



**All class updates are available on DOJO.**

We will be giving points when we see the children follow our class rules but we will only award a 'smiley face' for the rule 'We never give up' - this is when we see children try our 'challenges' in the provision as well as challenging themselves in their play and trying new activities rather than repeating something they have already mastered.

We work on this all through our year in Reception so the children learn to become independent learners and make their own brain grow.

We always celebrate a mistakes, as that's when the real learning happens and we learn from it and change the way we do it for next time!

Enjoy seeing what points your child receives and discuss what they did at home :)

If the children receive 6 smiley faces they get a treat and also the child with the

most Dojo points on a Friday is our Dojo winner! They get to sit on a special chair the following week!

## Wow Moments



Available at the Reception window.

Feel free to comment on anything your child does at home that really makes you proud, for example:

- Speaking / New words
- Independent skills
- Reading
- Writing
- Successful bedtimes
- Number
- Physical Activity (swimming/cycling etc)
- Creativity
- Home Life (trips/holidays)
- ICT/Computer/ipad skills

We look forward to sharing your children's WOW moments at home-time.

## Entering the classroom, messages and book bags

Please could you check your child's book bag **daily** for any letters from school and remind your child to give any letters to the adult at the door in the morning. We now ask you to encourage your child to enter the classroom independently and begin their learning on the carpet. The less distraction in the classroom at this time, the better. If you do need to speak to the adult at the door then please wait until the children are in and then enter the classroom to pass on your message. If you need to see me directly then please do at home time once I have dismissed all children.

**It is not what you do for  
your children,  
but what you have taught  
them to do for themselves,  
that will make them  
successful human beings.**

**Ann Landers**