



Welcome to Reception class 2018-19

Coming up in the Advent Term ...

Learning

As well as learning through their own self-chosen activities, the children will be:

- listening to, discriminating between and talking about Phase 2 sounds/phonemes: **s, a, t, p, i, n, m, d, g, o, c, k, ck, e, u, r, h, b, f, ff, l, ll and ss** (Letters and Sounds). Children need to focus on letter **sounds** rather than their names (the alphabet song) at this point in their learning. This term children will learn two very different skills. **1:** to find the letter when they hear the sound and **2:** to say the sound when shown the letter. Children will continue to practice orally segmenting/chopping and blending the sounds in words. This skill of segmenting and blending are the foundations of reading. Tricky words to practice reading by looking/sight words are: **the, no, to, l and go.**
- practicing counting skills, breaking numbers up and putting them back together in different ways, learning to explore three key questions: 1) **What do you notice/see?** 2) **What is the same?** 3) **What is different?**, exploring money, shapes, patterns and numbers through games and rhymes, exploring weight and length, learning to measure using a variety of resources and learning to show numbers using fingers and recording their learning through marks and pictures.
- mark-making using a variety of media such as crayon, pencil, chalk and paints and learning to write their name.
- model-making with junk materials and construction sets such as Duplo.
- exploring nature and learning about Seasons.
- exploring technology: CD Player, remote control toys, Beebot programmable robots, cameras, iPad and completing software games on the Interactive Whiteboard
- learning in **R.E.** – about the importance of our names and that God knows and loves each one of us; about welcoming, and that Baptism is a welcome into God's family; about the excitement of waiting for birthdays, and that Advent is the time when we wait for Jesus' birth
- learning our **School Values** for example to take turns to speak and listen and to share.

Our **RE topics** this term are '**Myself**', '**Welcome**' and '**Birthdays**'. We will use the exploration of these themes to practise the new skills taught above. In particular, we will think about:

- family
- names
- appearance
- age
- interests and skills
- difference
- getting along with each other

Skills

Through these activities and topics, the children will develop the following skills (amongst others):

- being confident to talk to other children when playing, and to ask adults for help
- beginning to accept the needs of others and to take turns and share resources, sometimes with support from others
- listening and responding to simple questions and instructions
- handling objects, including pencils, with increasing control and safety
- beginning to recognise names, numbers and signs in the environment
- reciting numbers in order, counting small numbers of objects, naming some shapes and comparing sizes
- showing an interest in people, animals, plants and objects around them
- showing an interest in construction and developing preferences for forms of artistic expression

This term we will be getting to know your child and finding out their likes, dislikes and needs. We will be encouraging children to follow themes based on their own particular interests. It is the adult's role to teach **in the moment** and support your child's learning and development as it happens. We will be outside in all weathers having fun in learning through play

How can parents/carers help?

Children's interests

Please keep us up to date with your child's current favourite characters and interests. By providing resources around things they are already interested in, we can engage their attention for longer, teach in the moment and extend their learning so high levels of engagement can take place.

'Wow!' card

This is for you to comment on recent developments you have noticed at home – things that made you think 'Wow!' We will display these on a board to celebrate the children's achievements. There are spare cards available on the noticeboard for you to complete as often as you would like.

Library and Communication books

A library book will be given to your child for you to share with them at home. It will be changed every week. We welcome your comments about your child's enjoyment of the books and you can make these in their Communication book. These can also be used for any kind of message. They will be checked each day but, for urgent messages, it would be better to tell one of us in person at the start of the day.

Reading Books

Your child's reading book will be kept safely in their book bag, along with their record book. Please keep these books **safe** in your child's book bag and kept **in a good condition**. Reading books will be changed weekly. You will be informed when this shall start. Please find a quiet place at home, with the TV off and share your child's book with them daily. Any family member or family friend can share the book with your child and comments or a signature made in the record book. This shows us your child has read and children enjoy seeing how many reading stickers they have collected. I cannot express enough how important it is for your child's development to explore books. You could register at Dunstable Library then your child could borrow at least 10 books at a time!

Birthdays

Your child can celebrate their birthday by having a non-uniform day. Please do not bring cakes or sweets to share with other children.

Show & Tell

You will be informed via the communication book it is your child's turn to bring something in for **Show and Tell**. Please encourage your child to think about what they want to say about their object. Please, to avoid upset, can the item not be irreplaceable. Thank you.

Payments

Please ensure that any money brought to school is in a sealed envelope, marked with your child's name, the amount and the purpose of the payment. If possible, hand the envelope to a member of staff before school, rather than leaving it in a book bag, where it can easily get hidden inside a book.

Uniform, P.E. kit and outdoor play

Children need to wear closed toe school shoes to school. No trainers, especially black trainers. They are not school shoes and not part of our school uniform. P.E. lessons will take place weekly and children will need to wear their PE kit. You can appreciate the difficulty staff may have in supporting your child with dressing and undressing if your child's kit and uniform is unnamed or the name unclear. **Please** make sure that **all** items of clothing are named (including coats, socks, shoes and wellington boots). We encourage independence in dressing, so lots of practice at home would be great. Children also have the opportunity to play outside every day, so children will need a pair of (named) wellingtons in school for them to use.

Hair & jewellery

Long hair should be tied back at all times. Jewellery **must not** be worn. Stud earrings (not hoops) are allowed for those children with pierced ears. These will be covered with a plaster if worn on PE day so it may be best to leave earrings at home on this day. Please make a member of staff aware if your child has a plaster allergy.

Attendance & Punctuality

It is imperative your child attends school regularly in order for your child to learn and grow. Learning in the early years builds your child's foundations. This year children will learn to read and write. If your child is not in school regularly it will hinder their progress greatly. Absences upset your child's routine and they may take a long time to settle again and rebuild friendships. Punctuality is also so important, as much of the focused teaching for the session happens in the first half-hour of the day. Please feel free to discuss the current legal implications of school absence with a member of staff in the school office. Our door is always open.

We look forward to supporting you and your child in their learning journey. Do come and talk to us about any concerns or questions you might have.

Class teachers - Mrs S. Bajcar (a.m.) and Mrs S.Ball (p.m)

Support staff – Mrs Balaam-Sheanon (a.m.) and Mrs Billington (p.m.)