



## Reception Ducks & Reception Squirrels

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to a new school year! We hope that you feel that your child is settling in happily, please don't hesitate to speak to us if there are any problems.

The Reception year is the final year of the foundation stage. In Reception we aim to develop all areas of the curriculum through well planned play activities. There will be a balance between teacher and child initiated activities and much of the planned learning is linked to the key topic for the half term.

Topics to be covered during the year (although these may change due to children's interests):-

- Families and Me
- Visitors from Another World
- People Who Help Us
- Spring
- Under the Sea
- Dinosaurs

### General Information

PE will take place every week. The children will need a named PE kit: black school shorts, a white t-shirt and black pumps, in a named pump bag please.

Please could children bring their book bags into school every day, we will use them not only to send reading books home but also for home/school communication letters.

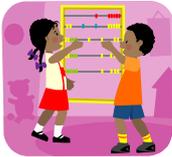
In Reception we like to bake with the children every week and ask for a donation of £1.50 per half term towards this. If you would like to make a donation please hand your money to a member of the Reception Squirrels Team. Thank you!

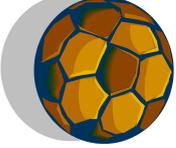
Our first topic is Families and Me, we will be talking all about our families and it would be lovely if the children could bring in some photographs of themselves and their families (all photographs will be returned so please ensure you write your child's name on the back).

Every Friday we will have a Show and Tell session, your child may bring something in on that day that they wish to talk to us about.

Miss Powell - Reception Squirrels Teacher  
Mrs Uddin - Reception Ducks Teacher  
Mrs Brown - Assistant Head (Early Years)

Here is a brief overview of what we will be learning in Reception this half term and a few ideas of how you can help your child at home.

Area of Learning	Content	How you can help at home
<p>Communication and Language</p> 	<p>This half term the children will be developing their speaking and listening skills through class discussions and by playing in our 'Home' role play area. Children will be given the opportunity to develop their confidence when speaking to an audience as we share information about our families and home lives with our class as part of our topic.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☺ Talk to your child at home and model good conversational skills such as listening.</li> </ul>
<p>Literacy</p> 	<p>Over the next few weeks Reception will start to learn single letter sounds, which will be known as phonemes. Towards the end of the half term, the children will begin to consider how these phonemes can be blended together to read a word or segmented to spell a word. We will also be learning to recognise some 'tricky' words. We will continue to develop our interest in books by reading a range of books during story time.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☺ Talk to your child about the phonemes and 'tricky' words that we have been learning at school.</li> <li>☺ Encourage your child to engage in mark making activity and to hold a pen or pencil using a correct pencil grip</li> <li>☺ Share a story with your child talking about characters, settings and events.</li> </ul>
<p>Mathematics</p> 	<p>Number recognition, ordering and counting to 10 will be our main focus this half term. We will also be exploring the characteristics of shapes and considering how objects can be ordered by length or weight.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☺ Help your child to recognise the numbers 0 to 10 and spot numbers when you are out and about.</li> <li>☺ Whilst playing games at home or at any appropriate opportunity, encourage your child to count in a stable order, with 1:1 correspondence</li> <li>☺ Help your child to notice shapes within their local environment</li> <li>☺ Talk to your child as you weigh or measure things at home</li> </ul>
<p>Personal, Social and Emotional Development</p>	<p>A continuous emphasis this half term will be the importance of turn taking, sharing, listening,</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☺ Help your child to think about sharing and considering others feelings at home.</li> </ul>

	<p>considering others feelings and following our school 'Code of Conduct' and class 'Golden Rules.' The children will also think particularly about new beginnings and a sense of belonging. As part of our topic we will also be considering how we take care of ourselves.</p>	<p>☺ Encourage your child to dress/undress and toilet independently.</p>
<p>Understanding the World</p> 	<p>As part of our topic the children will be exploring our school environment and our local environment. We will be talking to one another about our families and our home, as well as considering the things we like to do and those that we don't. We will also be thinking about our bodies and the things that we can do.</p>	<p>☺ Talk to your child about important features of your local environment and community when out and about.</p> <p>☺ Talk to your child about any local harvesting you might spot.</p>
<p>Physical Development</p> 	<p>This half term the children will be exploring the different ways that we can move and travel and the different shapes our bodies can make through dance and movement in our PE lessons. We will also look carefully at the changes that occur within our bodies when we exercise. Developing fine motor skills needed for holding a pencil and cutting with scissors will be a continuous focus as well.</p>	<p>☺ Praise your child as they explore new ways of travelling, such as hopping or skipping.</p> <p>☺ Practice holding and using scissors effectively at home.</p>
<p>Creative Development</p> 	<p>The children will continue to have lots of opportunities to paint, make and draw. We will complete family portraits using paints, a harvest still life using chalk pastels, create 3D models of our homes using junk boxes and will even explore painting with toothpaste and toothbrushes! Imaginative play will be developed through our 'Home' role play area and in music we will be exploring beat and tempo.</p>	<p>☺ Encourage your child to draw or paint at home, selecting appropriate colours.</p> <p>☺ Use a variety of junk materials at home to explore making and joining.</p> <p>☺ Ask your child to teach you the rhymes and songs they have been learning at school.</p>