



September 2018

Dear Parents,

TO PARENTS OF RECEPTION – Information 2018-2019

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.

The class teacher is Madeline Fraser and the class will also have classroom assistants: Devorah Lawrence and Chani Kirshenbaum. The J.S/Ivrit teacher is Bilha Cohen. 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. 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. Some children's achievements will exceed expectations. For these children further progress will be supported by providing additional learning opportunities/extension work. Some children will require suitable support and reinforcement in order to attain a thorough grasp of what has been taught.

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 shared with you and then placed into your child's portfolio, along with any photographic evidence to illustrate their learning. 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 encourage 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 via email 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 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.

P.E:

Reception P.E. will take place on **Wednesday**; 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.

We aim for the children to have access to further activities to enhance their fine motor skills. These involve cutting, modelling play dough, pegboards and other physical activities throughout the year.

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 by way of class and 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. Every Thursday we have a Show and Tell session for all children to take part in **if they want to**.

Please note that children should not bring in toys for Show and Tell (unless specifically asked). Items such as books, things children have made at home, objects from other countries, souvenirs from art galleries and museums, mementos from family events are examples of Show and Tell.

Show and Tell is entirely voluntary and it is up to each child if s/he wants to bring in something to share with the class. The main aim of Show and Tell is to develop the children's speaking and listening skills.

Literacy (including reading, phonics and written language)

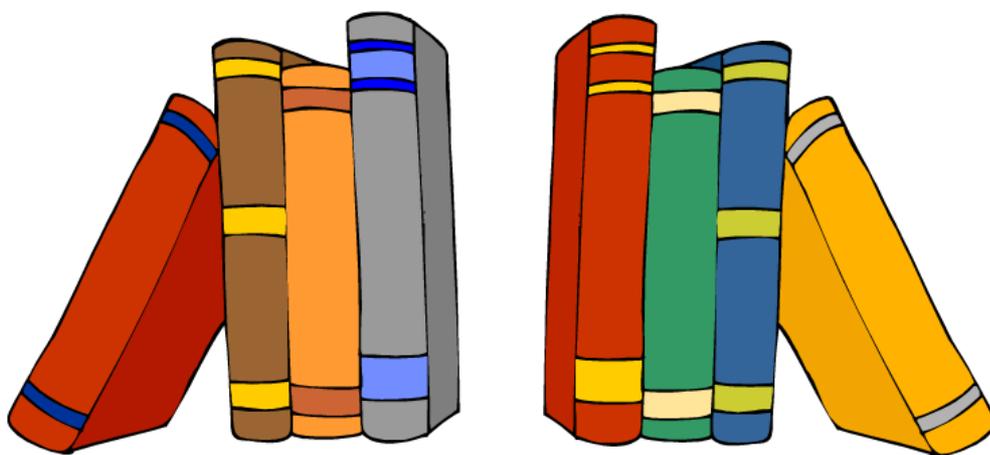
To reach the Literacy Early Learning Goals, we will encourage children to link sounds and letters and to begin to read and write. They will also become familiar with a variety of 'tricky' sight words which they will learn by memory. We will ensure they are exposed to a wide range of reading materials 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 focusing on developing pre-reading skills. Reading books will be sent home after the Chagim.

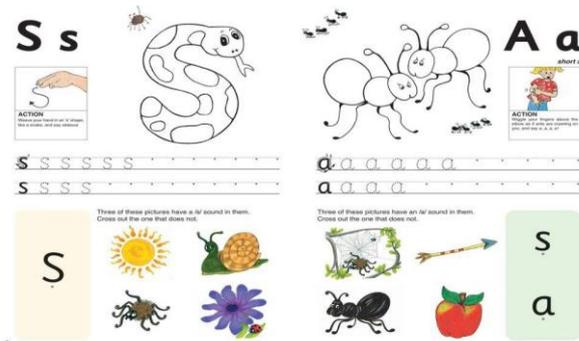
Children are asked questions about what they have read and about stories and poems which have been read to them. We are hopeful that they will become confident in predicting what may occur during a story, recognise features of stories and develop understanding of what they read. This will also be developed through their own reading from their reading packet each day. During reading time with an adult we will write in your child's diary the pages that have been read and what we would like you to read at home that evening. We ask that the school reading book is kept in your child's book bag and brought to school every day.

Homework will be sent home in your child's green bag on a Thursday and it should be returned by Wednesday the following week.



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 the Jolly Phonics Scheme. 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 actual sound and how to write that sound and which direction. Using visual illustrations clues as seen below help children to remember and recognise each sound.



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 their weekly news writing children will write about themselves and the events in their lives. This may be a drawing followed by a reading caption. Sometimes the teacher scribes for the child, other times the child will copy or trace what the teacher has written. We encourage children to write for different purposes, such as lists, labels and captions in their play. Later in the year, depending on individual progress, children begin to 'sound out' or write from memory the words they need to use. In the Reception classroom, we will have a 'tricky word wall'; tricky words are words that cannot be sounded out and are sight words i.e. children visually learn and become familiar with these words. We will also have letter and sound mats to support children in their writing.

Mathematics

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

We will expect children to develop their knowledge, understanding and formation of the numbers up to ten and possibly beyond, depending on individual progress. We will introduce them to the basic processes involved in simple addition and subtraction. Towards the end of Reception children will begin number recognition to twenty. 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.

The children will individually be working through their own Abacus book and continue to move throughout the series.

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. 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 and imaginary 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 develop children's curiosity and observational skills. We hope that through practical and investigative work children 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 computer. The children will visit the computer suite weekly, which will develop their understanding of how computers work.

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 two with more formal activities before lunch and less structured activities in the afternoon. During the afternoon we encourage the children to play and offer them access to toys and games, which help to develop literacy, language, numeracy and co-ordination skills. There will also be opportunities to use resources which encourage their creative and imaginative development. Through their play it is hoped social skills are developed as children will need to play co-operatively.

Shabbat Party is celebrated every Friday morning and we will be sending out a rota for Shabbat Abba and Imma. When your child is Abba may we ask you to bring a medium bottle of grape juice and plastic cups. Imma should please bring two medium challot and biscuits.



Birthday Parties are celebrated on a date that is mutually convenient at 3.15 pm. Please send in two nut free plain birthday cakes, serviettes and candles.

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 s/he will be learning. If you ever have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

Madeline Fraser
Madeline.fraser@nrps.co.uk

Bilha Cohen
bilha.cohen@nrps.co.uk