



Reception Newsletter Spring 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year from all the Reception staff. We would firstly like to take this opportunity to thank you for all the cards, gifts and good wishes for the festive season. We're looking forward to a great new year!

This term our topics will be 'Long Ago, Stories & Rhymes, Animal Safari and Signs of Spring. Please remember to check the school website on Friday for details of planning for the week ahead.

Here is an overview of what the children will be learning in each curriculum area this term.

Communication and Language

Learning to communicate effectively using full sentences will be the focus this term. Children will continue to develop their range of vocabulary linked to our topics and everyday talk. They will be learning to listen and respond to others appropriately with relevant comments or questions.

Children will also be developing their ability to talk about books to demonstrate their understanding. Please find time to discuss your child's day to build their confidence and conversational skills. Spending a few minutes discussing the book you have read is also a valuable way to develop language alongside reading comprehension.

Personal, Social & Emotional Development

In this area, children will be continuing to try new activities and applying the characteristics of motivation, persistence and problem solving to new challenges. They will be developing their abilities to work and play with others and adhere to the school rules.

Values education continues with a focus on the following values:

Peace = January
Love = February
Appreciation = March

Physical Development

This term the children will further develop their handwriting skills through daily practise sessions. They will also learn about the effects of exercise and a healthy diet on the body.

PE sessions continue on both Monday and Friday. Monday's indoor sessions will have a dance focus and the Friday outdoor session will focus on ball skills.

Please send your child to school **wearing their full PE kit on Monday and Friday.**

Please do not dress your child in tights for the dance sessions as they are required to work with bare feet for safety reasons. Long hair should be tied back and all jewellery should be removed.

Literacy

In Literacy, the children will be learning to read and write simple sentences in meaningful contexts such as greetings cards, factual writing, story recounts, labels and simple narratives. They use these and other opportunities to apply the skills developed in phonics sessions to spell words in ways which match their spoken sounds.

Phonics

The Spring unit of the Little Wandle phonics scheme consolidates Autumn's learning whilst introducing ai, ee, igh, oa, oo (zoom), oo (book), ar, or, ur, ow, oi, ear, air, er and the 'tricky words': was, you, they, my, by, all, are, sure, pure. Homework folders contain a weekly summary for you to review with your child. Reading practise sessions will continue three times per week, with a focus on: decoding, prosody (use of voice) and comprehension.

Expressive Arts & Design

We will continue to develop our appreciation of music, use everyday instruments and explore how music makes us feel.

The children will also create art work linked to the topics and develop their appreciation of well known pieces of art.

Reminders

- ✓ **Read daily** with your child and write a comment in the Reading Comment Book. For **4** comments each week, your child will earn a sticker. Every fifth sticker earns them a reading reward!
- ✓ Return both reading and library books reading books on **Monday**.
- ✓ Return completed homework by **Wednesday**.
- ✓ Please make sure your child wears a warm coat / jacket to school each day. Hats, gloves and scarves are also recommended for the winter months.
Please label all items of clothing with your child's full name. Thank you.

Mathematics

We will consolidate our understanding of numbers 0 to 5 before moving on to numbers 6 to 10, including 1 more, 1 fewer and subitising. An introduction to number bonds will also begin this term. Children will explore measurement such as mass, capacity, length, height and time. They will look at number patterns such as doubles and odd and even numbers as well as 3D shapes and patterns.

Understanding the World

Through the topic 'Long Ago' the children will be using traditional tales and other stories to learn about life in the past. They will also compare past and present toys and objects.

Through the 'Animal Safari' topic, the children will be learning about animals that live around the world and how to look after them. They will also be looking at features of different animals.

Children will continue exploring different faiths by learning more about Muslims, the story of the Good Samaritan and Easter.

Recommended Book List

- Peepo** by Janet & Allan Ahlberg
- The Baby Catalogue** by Janet & Allan Ahlberg
- So much** by Trish Cooke
- Traditional tales** e.g Three Billy Goats Gruff, Cinderella, Rumpelstiltskin, Goldilocks etc.
- Walking through the Jungle** by Julie Lacombe
- The Tiger Who Came to Tea** by Judith Kerr
- The Very Hungry Caterpillar** by Eric Carle
- Dear Zoo** by Rod Campbell
- Jasper's Beanstalk** by Nick Butterworth
- A First Book of Animals** — Nicola Davies
- Walking Through the Jungle** by Julia Lacombe
- Handa's Surprise** by Eileen Browne
- Monkey Puzzle** by Julia Donaldson
- Animal non fiction texts and poems.
- Nursery Rhymes