



Welcome Back to Reception Classes!

Welcome back to the 1st half of the Spring Term. We hope you had a lovely break! We are eager for another great half term full of exciting learning. This newsletter is to let you know a few of the things we will be learning about in school over the next few weeks. It would be great if you would like to supplement your child's learning with some discussions at home-I'm sure they will be keen to share their learning with you! Thank you for all your hard work and dedication to your child's learning-we have a great school community and we look forward to continuing working with you. If you have any questions please ask Miss Thomson or Mrs Saab. Our topic this half term is Storytastic! It's a wonderful chance to explore some core texts in greater detail and develop cross curricular linked learning.

Achieving Success

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

All children have settled back into term well, picking up their friendships again after the break. We know how to play nicely and share; we are continuing to try and do this consistently. We have learnt our daily routines and expected behaviour and we are achieving this often-with some reminders. We have learnt about all the Ark Atwood values. We are working hard to follow these values and will be looking at them more closely as the term continues, starting with Aspiration (link to New Year's Resolutions).

Mathematics

We are focusing on writing, using and understanding numbers 0-20. We will also be looking at days of the week, months of the year and how to read a calendar. Does your child know what date it is? Do they know their birthday date? Later on we will be learning about positional language and directions. Please play games with your child involving directions (forward, backward, left and right) and finding objects using positional language-e.g. behind, on top, next to etc. We will be learning about shape and pattern. We are looking at time-please practice telling the time with your child; o'clock. We will be exploring other areas of maths in continuous provision that is available in afternoons.

Understanding the World

This half term we will be learning about Chinese New Year and New Year celebrations around the world. Different people and communities celebrate New Year in different ways – it would be fantastic if parents would like to come in and share how they celebrate new year (or other special dates around this time of year). This will not only show the children a broad spectrum of our communities but they would love to hear from you. Please come and speak to the Reception team if you're interested.

Home Learning

Thank you for all the work you have been doing at home with your children. The phonics homework is designed to support children in discussing what they have been learning with you as well as giving them an opportunity to practice forming letters and sounding out and blending words. Please continue trying to sound out and blend words together as we are seeing great progress. Please ask if you would like a pack of the Read Write Inc. phonics sound cards. Your child's homework is particular to the phonics group they are in so please do not hesitate to ask your child's phonics leader if you have any concerns.

Communication & Language/Literacy

Our literacy programme incorporates speaking & listening and reading and writing; there are opportunities for adult led and child initiated learning in these areas. We will continue daily phonics sessions, which include writing opportunities. Our topic this half term is Storytastic!-we will be covering different core books each week starting with Stick Man, The Tiger Who came to Tea , Room on the Broom, Whatever Next, Paddington Bear, and Not Now Bernard. Please read with your child frequently to help to instil a love of reading and do send in any books you think the class will enjoy linked to any one of our core books.

Physical

There will be lots of opportunity for outdoor learning and we will be focusing on team games, hand to eye coordination and moving with skill. We are using the park every Wednesday afternoon for Park Club so please ensure your child is in full PE kit and in warm, waterproof clothing and shoes. Where possible please take your child to activity areas/playgrounds to continue developing their gross motor and climbing skills. We will be concentrating on Fine Motor Skills in the classroom also to help improve our pincer grip and writing skills. Please sign up to volunteer outside the Reception classes.

Expressive Arts and Design

Miss Rebecca , our drama/dance teacher will continue on Wednesday and Friday afternoons and these workshops will also follow our work on Storytastic topic. On Thursday afternoons we will be having Art lessons. There will also be opportunities for independent creative learning during continuous provision.

Other Useful Information

PE Sessions continue to be on a Monday and Thursday-please ensure your child has their full PE kit. We are very keen on the children constructing models and designing great creations with junk modelling; if you have any items, large or small please bring it in for us. Thank you for your continued support and involvement. Please send in your child's homework on a Wednesday. PE kit and waterproof warm clothes needed for Wednesday Park Club. **WE NEED VOLUNTEERS FOR PARK CLUB ON WEDNESDAY AFTERNOONS-PLEASE SIGN UP ON THE SHEET OUTSIDE RECEPTION. THANK YOU!**