

Autumn 2018

Dear Reception Parents,

A big welcome to you.

We hope your children have enjoyed their first week at school.

Our topics for reception this term are "All about me" and "Dinosaurs ". This letter is to inform you about the topic your children will be learning about and the activities they will be taking part in.

The children are always welcome to bring in things which spark their interest, which are related to our topic, which they can show the class and talk about.

We have WOW vouchers, which we use for you to celebrate your child doing, making or achieving something special at home. The certificates are brought into the school where the child tells the class what they have achieved. They then get a team point, sticker and round of applause. The WOW vouchers get displayed on our WOW wall for all to see. I have attached some for you to use, please ask for more if you run out.

We are always needing materials for the creative table so if you have any old cards, wrapping paper, buttons, ribbon bits and bobs etc then please bring them into school and give them to either myself or Mrs Smith.

If you or grandparents would like to help out in school with reading, activities or woodland classroom then please let us know. All help is welcome!

Reading books and library books will come home weekly, please write any comments in your child's reading record book. We aim to listen to, read and discuss books with each child in groups or individually at least three times a week. I will be holding an information meeting on Tuesday 20th September (time to be confirmed) to discussing reading and phonics with infant children.

Homework. We don't set homework for the reception children, but we encourage you to read and share books regularly with your child. They will have a book to share and a reading diary. We would like you to comment in this after you have read with your child, this can also be used for a communication book with school. When your child starts learning letter sounds, they will bring home phonic sheets, which you can practice with them.

PE is Wednesday afternoon. Please can you make sure that your child has P.E kit in school. If you are not sure what is required in their kit please speak to any member of staff. Please can you also make sure all hair is tied up for PE and swimming.

If you have any questions or are worried about anything, please feel free to talk to Mrs Smith or myself.

Thank you

Mrs Kirsty Harbin and Mrs Katy Smith

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Literacy

The children will be:

Doing daily phonic sessions, learning to rhyme and recognising letter sounds for their name.

- Looking at stories finding out about story structure and characters. Retelling them through play.
- Looking at non-fiction books and finding out about themselves and people who help us.
- Labelling and writing about what jobs people do and how they help.

The children have been choosing picture books to share at home. This will get the children used to taking books home and bringing them back to school. They will then progress on to the Oxford Reading Tree scheme. The children will be introduced to the Oxford Reading Tree characters Floppy, Biff, Kipper and Chip by colouring pictures they bring home.

Maths

The children will focus on:

- Counting reliably with numbers 1-10, placing them in order and saying which number is more or less than a given number.
- Talking about size and position using the parcels for the post office.
- Talking about capacity and weight in the sand and water areas.
- Measuring and weighing during cooking.
- Exploring characteristics of everyday objects and shapes and using mathematical language to describe them.

Understanding the World

As part of our topic:

- The children will be finding out about their family and themselves.
- Learning what they need to do to stay healthy.
- The children will be finding out language used to describe the passing of time and about what changes.
- The children will learn how to use ICT programmes to draw pictures and play simple games.
- The children will be learning about why they are special and the value of being truthful
- Looking at the different seasons and what they are like.
- Exploring woodland classroom to see what plants and mini-beasts they can see and identify.

Personal Social and Emotional Development

The children will be focusing on:

- Getting to know the class and other children. They will also look at forming new relationships.
- Taking turns when playing games.
- Learning the rules and routines of the classroom.
- Thinking about others and how to behave at lunch times.
- Trying new things and saying what they like and dislike.

Barnaby Bear goes home with a child every weekend and comes back with news of his stay, which the children will recount to the class. Barnaby takes turns to visit every child during a year and sometimes you get him to stay twice.

Communication and Language

The children will be learning to:

- Take turns at talking and listening to others.
- Speaking clearly with confidence and control to show awareness of the listener.
- Anticipate key events in stories and responding to what they hear with relevant comments, questions or actions.
- Develop the language of rhymes.

Physical development

The children will be:

- Developing their fine motor skills, which will help them with holding and using a pencil.
- Participating in catching and throwing games, negotiating space inside and outside safely.
- Going to the toilet unaided, getting themselves undressed and dressed for PE sessions.

Expressive Art and Design

The children will be:

- Developing ideas and designs through the creative area inside and outside.
- Creating mud sculptures in our outside mud kitchen.
- Expressing their own ideas through music and dance.
- Recreating their own experiences through role play and small world play.

Woodland Classroom

The children will be exploring the area and looking for different trees and collecting their leaves. They will then learn how to identify them. A separate letter about what they need will come home nearer the time.