

Year R Newsletter

Autumn Term 1

Page 1

Welcome

Welcome to the first half termly reception newsletter. The children have made a fabulous start to the year and we are really impressed with the way they have settled so beautifully. Below are a list of the reception staff, who are more than happy to assist you if you have any questions about school or your child.

Class teacher Monday – Wednesday and Deputy Headteacher: **Mrs Beckley**

Class teacher on Thursday and Friday: **Ms Head**

Teaching assistant: **Mrs Nguyen** (Monday – Friday)

Teaching assistant: **Mrs D'Mello** (Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday)

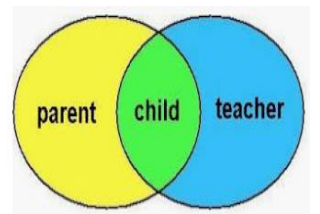
Teaching assistant: **Mrs Putman** (Monday – Friday mornings)



Communication

Parents have the opportunity to meet three times a year with the reception staff at 'Meet the Teacher' sessions, where information about the term ahead is explained. Parents also will be invited to individual consultation appointments with their child's class teacher twice a year to discuss where the children are in their learning and how this can be further supported at home. If you have anything that you would like to discuss with us at other points during the year, please leave a message with the school office and they will ensure that a mutually agreeable meeting time is arranged. We will also be producing termly and weekly newsletters for reception parents and carers to give you detailed information and messages about the reception class. These newsletters will be uploaded to the following location on the school website:

Children - Class pages – Year R Sunflower Class – Autumn Term Newsletters.



Tapestry

From this term we have chosen to use an online system of recording the reception children's learning. Tapestry is a website which can be accessed on a computer or laptop, and also on any Apple or Android device such as a tablet or smartphone. We have chosen this company because they are a secure and also exciting way of keeping track of your child's development throughout the year.

Tapestry will enable us to instantly upload photos, videos and observations of your children. You are then emailed to alert you that something new has been added to your child's Learning Journal and can log on and view what your child has been learning. An advantage of this system is that you can instantly add your own comments to entries, and can show your child's online book to members of the family. We also encourage parents and carers to add their own observations and photographs of things that they see their child doing at home which is significant in their development.

This gives us a clear picture of the child as a whole, using observations from both home and school.

On the school website you will find further information about Tapestry including frequently asked questions and a user guide for parents.

Please find this information at the following location on the website:

Children - Class pages – Year R Sunflower Class – Autumn Term Information.



Power Project

Every term, all classes throughout the school receive a power project which is targeted home learning in the form of tasks and activities. The project is set at the beginning of the term, and is required to be completed by the end of term. Please find the reception power project for this term on the school website under:

Children - Class pages – Year R Sunflower Class – Autumn Term Information.

Please follow the instructions on the Tapestry guide to evidence your activities within your child's online Tapestry learning journal.



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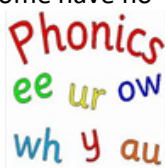
Page 2

Phonics and reading

The children have started their daily Read, Write Inc phonics lessons. We learn a new sound every day, both how to read it and how to write it. We also learn how to hear sounds in words, so that we can use the letter sounds to begin to read and write.

We will be holding a phonics workshop for parents this term. Further information on this training will be shared shortly.

The children will be bringing home a reading book soon. This needs to come to school every day and be read at home every night. The first books most children will take home have no words in them, so the children tell the story using the pictures. Please record this, daily in their reading record. It is also important that children are read to every night to build up their vocabulary and love of stories.



Maths

We have begun our maths lessons in school, which focus on number and shapes, space and measures.



Counting is the basis of much learning in maths, so we will practice counting everyday. Please find time at home to practice counting too, maybe walking up and down stairs, counting out fruit etc.

We will also be holding a maths workshop for parents this term. Further information on this training will be shared shortly.

General notices

P.E.

This term we are doing inside balance and coordination skills in the hall. The children will need their PE kit every week for our lesson on Wednesday. The indoor kit required this term consists of school shorts and t-shirt, plus black plimsolls. We find it best if P.E kits stay in school all term and go home to be washed in the holidays.

Behaviour

To encourage good behavior in reception class, we use a sun, cloud, raindrop and lightning system. Each child starts a session with their name on the sun, and stay there if they follow all of the classroom rules and expectations. If however, after being spoken to once about a particular behaviour, they continue to display the unwanted behaviour, their name will be moved progressively down the chart. As a result of this they may need to have a short period of 'time out' or be spoken to by a senior member of staff. We will always meet with parents to inform them of any behavioural issues if we feel it is necessary.

Clothes Labelling

Children can be more independent with finding their clothes, when all their clothing is labelled with their name. This is especially useful when they are changing for PE. Therefore, we ask for all clothes to be clearly labelled with your child's name.

Independence

It is important that home and school work together to develop children's independence. Please try to allow time for children to do things at home for themselves, especially dressing and undressing themselves. We encourage the children to use their knife and fork to eat their dinner, so this is something we ask you to support with at home also.

Most children are coming into school really well in the mornings now without relying on parents or carers to escort them to the classroom. If your child is still struggling with this, we will work together to reinforce the routine of waving goodbye to parents and carers in the line on the playground. We appreciate it is not pleasant to see your child upset, but they will thrive on consistency of routine, and we assure you they are all absolutely fine by the time they come into the classroom!

We thank you for your support.

