

Reception Newsletter

Staff in Reception

Assistant Head teacher: Mrs Hart

Parrot Class: Miss Gray (Year leader) & Mrs Keddo

Goldfish class teacher: Mrs Ali & Mrs Mullane

Rabbit Class teacher: Miss Morton & Mrs Hussain

Hamster Class teacher: Mrs Choudhury & Mrs Sibinska

Welcome back, we hope you have had a wonderful time with your families during the holidays. The children have had some well deserved rest and now they should be ready to start another exciting term.

Our topic this term is all called 'Weird and Wonderful Weather'. The children will be going on a 'Winter Welly Walk' to Kingsway Park to observe the changes in the environment from Autumn to Winter. They will be making daily observations on the weather during registration and collecting rain water to make comparisons on each day. We will be having a visit from Zoo Lab this term where a selection of different animals will come into school. The children will learn about the different animals and the environment and weather where they live.

As the weather starts to get colder, it is essential that your child wears a warm coat with accessories if necessary (scarf, gloves and hat). Children will also need to have wellies left at school that they can wear when they play in the outdoor area when it is raining. Please ensure their name is written inside all clothing (including shoes).

Phonics

The children have been taught all phase 2 sounds and tricky words last term. They are now learning how to segment and blend to read words. There will be a focus on this in reading and in phonics .

- We will continue re-capping phase 2 single sounds and tricky words in our phonics lesson.
- This term we will be starting to teach phase 3 single sounds, digraphs and tricky words.
- Please ensure you read with your child at home using the word boxes and reading books.

Understanding the world

This term there is going to be a large emphasis on teaching children how to ask questions and supporting their natural curiosity. There will be opportunities and experiences to stimulate and support children in asking questions and learning how to ask the right question to get the desired answer.

Children will also be learning how to compare and talk about similarities and differences in relation to seasons and when talking about themselves and others.

Religious education

Children will be taught following the Luton agreed syllabus where they will start talking about places that are special to them. They will learn about holy places for Muslims and Christians and look at similarities and differences between the holy buildings.

Literacy

In reception we will be starting Talk for Writing. There is a big focus on children learning new language, vocabulary and story language which will then support their writing later in the year. The main story that we will be focussing on is called The Squeaky Story.

We will also be learning how to say and write a sentence and learning what we need to write a sentence successfully. The children will learn how to apply their phonics to write words with finger spaces between words, a capital letter at the start of their sentence and how to correctly form letters.

There will be a big focus on reading and teaching children how to blend. It is essential that children have opportunities to read at home with family members.

Expressive Art and Design

The children will be learning how to use their imagination and creativity to create using different media.

Maths

We will be learning how to compare height, weight, length and capacity during independent play and exploration. The children will also be solving problems using number, addition and subtraction. The children will also be taught how to count accurately and check answers to problems they have solved.

Personal, Social and Emotional development

We will be learning how to talk about yourself in positive terms. There will be regular opportunities to celebrate achievements and reflect on learning.



Weird and Wonderful Weather

Communication and Language

This area of learning is a big focus. There will be key vocabulary for them to learn linked to our topic to broaden their vocabulary. The main focus will be teaching children how to ask questions.

Homework

Word boxes

These are a set of words that children practise reading at home. Once they are able to read all the words, teachers will check and give the child the next set. This will support children's reading.

Reading books

Children will have a reading book home in their red book bags. These books might be picture books where children are required to use the pictures to tell the story. Some books will have simple words for children to read by segmenting the sounds and blending them to read. Parents and families can make a comment in the reading record to show that the child has read at home. We encourage parent to comment to celebrate how often children are reading.

Important dates (details will be confirmed at a later date)

- **Thursday 17th January there will be a visit from an author**
- **Friday 18th January is the Zoo Lab visit**
- **Wednesday 23rd January visit from dental nurses**
- **Friday 1st February walk to Kingsway Park**
- **Friday 15th February end of Spring 1 term**
- **Monday 25th February return to school for Spring 2 term**