

# Reception Newsletter : Autumn 1

Welcome to the start of a new academic year! On behalf of the whole Early Years team we hope you have had a fantastic Summer and have been keeping yourselves safe. The Autumn term is where our learning journey begins together - what an exciting time! During this half term, assessments of your child will be made so we can ensure to support each individual to reach their highest potential. At this time of the year, securing relationships and establishing routines are a vital part of ensuring a smooth transition period.

Our topic this half term is **'Why do you love me so much?'**. Within this topic your child will be learning about emotions, feelings, individual strengths and using different senses to explore the environment.

Your child will receive a book bag at the start of the year. This must be brought to school everyday and will include a reading book, a reading log and high frequency words. There will be a cost for any lost or damaged resources. Important messages or letters may also be placed inside book bags so please check them daily. Initially, reading books will be picture books only. It is really important your child has the opportunity to talk about the pictures and use their imagination to make up their own story, speaking about characters, settings and plots will develop their communication skills.

Outdoor learning takes place daily so please ensure your child has the correct weather proof clothing and a pair of named wellies available on their peg all year round. We understand you may have many questions or queries at this time of the year so please do not hesitate to speak to a member of the Reception Team.

*Miss Smith - Early Years Leader, Miss Adams - Class teacher, Miss Aveline - Teaching Assistant, Mrs Proffitt - Teaching Assistant and Miss Teague - Teaching Assistant.*

*In Physical Development we will be learning about different parts of our bodies and how they function. We will also be explaining growth sequences from a baby, to a toddler, to a child, to a teenager and to an adult.*

*In Expressive Art and Design we will use mirrors to describe our own face and create a portrait of our reflection using paint.*

*In Communication and Language we will be talking about people who care for us such as nurses and doctors. We will also be describing special people in our lives.*

*In Understanding of the World we will be exploring different house types and learning about buildings in the local community.*

*In Personal, Social, Emotional Development we will be learning to follow new classroom rules and manage our behaviour in different situations.*



## P.E

P.E takes place EVERY Tuesday. Please ensure your child brings their named P.E kit to school on Monday, they leave it in school all week and take it home on a Friday to be washed.



### Literacy

Initially, Reception will be practising book handling skills and developing their book talk. We will be exploring a range of different books around the environment and developing a love for reading by engaging with stories including different settings and genres.

In phonics, we will start learning single sounds and practise pronouncing them correctly.

This half term our book focuses will be:

'Can't you sleep little bear?' - Martin Waddell

'Feelings' - Richard Jones

In writing, we work very hard in the first half term to develop secure pencil grip and will be practising many fine motor activities to strengthen hand muscles. We also focus strongly on name recognition and name writing skills. Practising name writing daily at home will really support your child's letter formation.

### Numeracy

In Maths, we will be learning to use number names correctly, focusing particularly on 0 to 9.

We will be exploring numbers in different environments by going on number hunts and by chanting number rhymes. We will also be using number rhymes to help form numbers correctly.

Throughout daily maths lessons, we will be focusing on securing touch counting skills by using familiar objects and reciting numbers. At home, you can support your child's learning by identifying numbers which are personal to them e.g the number on your front door.

### Attendance and Punctuality

'Every Day Matters' - Every day that your child misses is a day of learning lost. Reception start time is **8:35am** and they will enter through the school gate at the top of the drive. Please support us by ensuring that your child attends school every day and is in school ready to start their learning by **8.35am**.

### Homework

In Reception, 5-10 minutes of reading with your child should be completed every day. We ask for you to complete a comment in their reading log once a week, this will enable us to develop next steps for your child. Reading books will be reviewed and changed every Friday according to your child's reading ability. A teacher will leave one weekly comment in your child's reading log so assessment of your child's learning is shared. As books can be shared at any time of the week it is very important for reading books and reading logs to be brought to school **every day**. For any reading books which are damaged or not returned to school there will be a charge.

Along with reading books, children will also have high frequency words which they need to practise every day.

Reception will receive their Topic Homework Challenges at the start of each half term. They have been designed so that parents and children can work together on homework tasks. We hope that you enjoy them.

After the success of using Purple Mash as a learning tool during the school closure, we have decided that this is how we will now deliver homework tasks across the school. This will not only engage the children but it will also cut down on items being brought back and forward from school.

Homework is given out on a **Friday** is due back in school by **Wednesday**. This gives children an opportunity to speak to their teacher on Monday or Tuesday if there is something that they don't understand.