

Reception Class Newsletter



Spring Term
2018

Important reminders

- Please make sure all items of uniform are clearly named. Items of clothing that are not clearly named will be put into lost property.
- Please make sure any money sent into school is in a labeled envelope.
- Reading with your child as often as possible is vital for their communication, language and literacy development.
- Some parents have been entering school at the end of the day to collect items of clothing, please wait until all children have been sent home before entering the school building.

Welcome back and we hope you all had a peaceful and reviving Christmas and New Year!!

This newsletter contains useful information about what you should expect from the Spring term.

If at any time you have any questions or you are unsure of anything please ask! Staff are always happy to speak to you if you have any questions or concerns. If we are unable to see you at the beginning of the day please make an appointment at a convenient time.

Our current topic

We will be talking about Winter and with the children we have decided **to investigate whether animals live in a Hot/a Cold climate**. We will be basing our learning around their interest and we will use a variety of both Information and Fiction Texts.

We like the children to be involved in planning their topic work as far as possible. The aim is to give the children 'ownership' of their learning and to develop their creative and critical thinking skills. The staff know which skills the children need to learn and also when each child is ready to develop these further. The children tell us what they would like to learn about a topic and we take it from there!

Our emphasis on practical and play-based activities continues this term. The children are now familiar with the process of selecting materials and planning their work independently. As before, there will be a balance of directed and self-chosen activities.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Throughout the term we will focus on how we can take care of each other and how to solve problems and disagreements. Children will also be thinking in particular about how to keep safe. We will be talking about dressing for the cold, road safety and 'Stranger Danger'. Please encourage your child to think about what makes a good friend and how they can be a good friend to others.

Communication and Language

The children will be developing key skills such as listening and following instructions, sharing ideas and opinions with others and extending their vocabulary by exploring the meaning and sounds of new words. We will provide plenty of opportunities for the children to listen attentively in a range of situations, responding to what they hear with relevant comments, questions or actions. We encourage them to engage in conversations, express themselves clearly developing an awareness of the listener and building confidence in speaking in a familiar group. Asking questions, talking about events and following instructions are all an intrinsic part of our daily routines and activities.



Our motto is:

Alta Pete – Aim High

"The primary aim of the school is to help each pupil reach his or her full potential so that they may develop the attitudes, skills and knowledge to take full advantage of the opportunities available in their future lives."

Physical Development



We will be developing the children's Gross Motor control through Gymnastics on Tuesdays and Movement/ Dance sessions on Fridays. However physical development extends beyond the taught lessons and prevails in all areas of our setting. In the Foundation Stage, physical development covers both gross and fine motor skills and large and small scale movements.

We take part in daily activities which are designed to develop children's fine motor skills. This will strengthen the muscles in their fingers and aid the development of writing. Some fine motor activities you may like to try at home are: manipulating playdough, threading beads/pasta tubes onto string, popping bubble wrap, picking up small objects with tweezers, wind-up toys and using scissors.



Literacy

We greatly appreciate any help you are able to give your child. **We cannot emphasize enough the importance of spending time sharing books and reading to your child each day.** Developing a love of books and reading will help your child to become an independent reader.

Please aim to read with your child every night, even if it is just for a few minutes. Once you have read with your child, please sign or comment in their reading record so we know they have read.

The children have phonics lessons each day and have now been grouped to tailor their learning to their needs and will be working on Letter Formation of Phase Two sounds and learning Phase Three phonemes and digraphs. We are also encouraging them to have a go at using their phonic knowledge to aid their writing. Please encourage your child to sound out words at home and practice writing them to label and annotate their pictures. The Early Learning Goal for literacy (which is the expected level the children should be at in June) states **"They write sentences which can be read by themselves and others. Some words are spelt correctly and others are phonetically plausible."**

Please support your child with their literacy skills so they have the best chance at achieving this goal.



Maths

Some of the skills we will be developing over the term include practising saying and using number names in order to 20 and counting up to and beyond 10 everyday objects. The children will begin to add two groups of objects together and take a number of objects away from a larger group.

We will be using shapes to make pictures and models and learn to name and describe basic 2D and 3D shapes.

We will use words such as bigger and smaller to describe size, more or less/fewer to describe amounts and longer or shorter to compare lengths.

We will identify all coins and use pennies to buy and sell items in our role-play shop.

Mathematical Vocabulary: **more, fewer, less, the same as, equal, add, plus, minus, take away, total, altogether**

Understanding the world

As well as our work on 'Winter' we will be learning how people of different religions celebrate and we will talk about 'Chinese new Year', Nowruz, Holi and Easter.

The children will begin to develop their Computing skills by using both a computer and an iPad independently to access educational apps. The children all have access to a computer and other Computing resources throughout every school day and we will have Computing sessions on Wednesday mornings in the Computing Suite.

Vocabulary: **Laptop, PC / Personal Computer, monitor, screen, keyboard, power button, keys, backspace key, enter key, space bar, mouse, cursor, etc.**

Expressive arts and design

The children will be developing their creative skills by expressing their ideas and feelings through music, art, dance and drama. The children will be building a repertoire of songs and dances and will be given the opportunity to explore musical instruments. The children will have continuous access to a large range of construction and craft materials to aid their learning in this area

Forest School

We will continue to have Forest School on Thursday mornings so please ensure the children are adequately dressed.

We hope you have found this information helpful and like us are looking forward to another action packed term! Thank you for your continued support.

