

# Reception Curriculum Letter

Autumn Term 2018

**Firstly, a warm welcome to all our new Reception children and parents!**

We're all very excited to get stuck into this year with our wonderful new Reception classes and hopefully with your support, it will be great! For the first half term our topic will be **Me and My School**. We will be spending lots of time helping the children to settle in and get to know each other and the routines that come with being in Reception. After the half term holidays we will be moving on to our second topic which will be **Monsters!**

## Literacy.

I'm sure some of the children will have already become familiar with using phonics to help them with their reading and writing. We will continue to help them build on this knowledge by giving the children different opportunities to practise and use the sounds that they have learnt (through games, songs, rhymes, etc.). If your child is unfamiliar with phonics, please don't worry because we will be covering **all** the sounds. For the first half term, we will mainly be recapping sounds that are already familiar to the children, such as those in their names. Following this we will work towards 'tricky' sounds and using sounds to make words. We will provide you with some sounds and accompanying actions that you can help your child to learn and any support that you can give them at home would be greatly appreciated!

The children will also be practising using their sounds for writing, which we encourage them to do in a range of familiar contexts with a purpose (for example; writing their name on their art work). A lot of this writing will be done independently as part of their play as the children will always have access to writing materials. We will be encouraging their writing through the use of engaging picture books.

We will soon start sending the children home with a reading book and reading record. Most of the children will not yet be able to read the book but you can share the story with them at home and encourage them to point out any letters they recognise. We will also be looking for regular volunteers to come and listen to the children read so please let us know if this is something you may be able to do.

## Mathematics.

This term we will be counting with numbers up to twenty using counting rhymes, games and number lines. Many of your children will have lots of experience with numbers but if they still aren't sure, don't worry because we will all be starting from zero and learning the numbers together. We will also be learning to use the numbers

we know to count things around us and in our play and you can help the children to practise this by encouraging them to count things they might see in the world around them such as ducks on a pond or swings at the park, etc. You could also sing some familiar number rhymes such as 'Five fat sausages' or '1, 2, 3, 4, 5' with them because the more counting they do, the better! We will later be moving on to simple addition and subtraction using the numbers up to 10.

As well as counting, we will be talking lots about the days of the week and the date using our class calendar. You can help your child by telling them what day it is and on what days certain activities take place, this will help them to understand.

### **Understanding the World and Personal, Social and Emotional Development.**

This first half term we will be learning lots about our new school and the people in it. We will be focusing on our new routine and also, the rules for the classroom. This will be a great opportunity for all the children to make new friends and we will be discussing and reading lots of stories about friendship. The children will be encouraged to talk, write and draw pictures about their likes and dislikes, their favourite things and their families and friends so we can all get to know each other.

The most important aim within these curriculum areas at this stage, is for the children to develop an understanding of the school routine and knowledge of the classroom so they will feel settled and comfortable in their new environment. We will be giving the children lots of encouragement to do things for themselves and to make choices about their own learning. This will develop their sense of self-confidence and independence. You can help us to do this by getting them to be more independent at home (dressing themselves, going to the toilet, eating with a knife and fork, etc.).

### **Expressive Arts and Design.**

Lots of the work we will be doing will be creative. Activities we will be doing include painting pictures and making collages of ourselves and our friends and printing using our hands and feet! Materials such as paints, crayons, glue and paper are always available for the children to use and we would be very grateful if you could bring in any empty cardboard boxes (cereal boxes, etc.) and plastic containers (such as yoghurt pots) that we can use to make models with. We will also be looking for volunteers to come in and help with these activities a few weeks into the term.

The children will also have weekly music sessions with our specialist music teacher Mr Nind and we will incorporate what they learn within the classroom during daily singing sessions.

## **Physical Development.**

During this first term we will be exploring different ways to move our bodies using a range of small equipment. We will also be practising our team skills through games. As we have our own playground, we will spend a lot of time outside in active play so please make sure your child is prepared for all weathers!

We will also concentrate lots on developing the children's fine motor skills through activities such as playdough, threading, painting and mark-making with a range of tools.

The children will need a PE kit ready to start PE in Autumn 2.

If at any point you have any queries or questions please pop in to see any of us after school - our door is always open! If you would like to come in and help in the classroom you would be very welcome. Please speak to Hayley in the school office to arrange the necessary checks. We look forward to getting to know all of you and your children.

**Thank you for your support.**

**The Reception Team.**

**Miss Bruce    Mr Dawson**

**Miss Inman    Miss Thompson**