



## **Reception Newsletter autumn term 1 2018**

Welcome to our Reception children and their families. We have had a lovely week and the children seem to feel settled already! Apologies for the length of this newsletter, but there is a lot of information to share.

### **The Reception Team**

Reception Teachers - Miss Storey (Fir Tree Class) and Mrs Hughes (Oak Tree Class)

Teaching Assistants – Miss Blanch (Fir Tree Class) Mrs Foreman and Mrs Henderson (Oak Tree Class)

Cover for planning time on a Wednesday morning – Mrs Bacon (Fir Tree Class) and Mrs Mitchell (Oak Tree Class)

### **Communication**

We will send you a newsletter every half term to provide general information as well as details of the planned learning intentions for the half term. If you have not already done so, please sign up for Home Contact in the school office so that you will automatically be sent information from school. In addition, your child will be bringing home a 'Home-link' book, which will keep you up to date with what they are learning and provide you with an opportunity to comment on your child's progress or note down any worries, queries and questions that you may have. We are also available at the end of the day if you have any questions or concerns. Our blog can be found at [www.WFPSblogs.net](http://www.WFPSblogs.net). We will need to wait until we have the completed permission letters back from you before we can put photos and information about the children's learning on the blog, but when this is up and running, it is a good way for you to see what your child has been learning at school.

### **The Foundation Stage Curriculum**

This half term we will be observing the children as they play and learn, to enable us to plan a programme of work to suit their needs and reflect their interests. This will be met through a wide variety of experiences based upon the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum. This has seven areas of learning which are outlined in the attached plan for this half term.

### **Our Classroom Trees**

You may have noticed that we have Fir and Oak tree displays in the classroom. These are to celebrate the children's achievements at home, such as swimming 10 metres, or being helpful at home. Once you know which class your child is in, please write your child's achievement on the leaf we send home, in their reading record, so we can share and celebrate these with their friends and display them on the trees for everyone to see.

### **Phonics and reading books**

Once the children have begun full time school, and when we have completed our baseline assessments, we will begin teaching phonics. We have arranged a phonics evening on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October at 6:00pm, for parents/carers, to provide you with information on our phonics scheme, demonstrate how the children are taught phonics and show you how you can support their learning at home.

When we feel your child is ready for a reading book, we will start them on an appropriate level and will change these books on a Monday evening and Friday lunchtime. Initially their books may be picture books and we ask that you encourage them to tell you a story using the pictures. Once they start bringing books home with words, please encourage them to read these to you, not the other way around! Please sign to say that you have heard your child read in their green link book and make any comments so that we know the book needs changing.

When your child is ready, we will also be sending home 'Rocket Words' that cannot be read phonetically and need to be sight-read e.g. the. There are seven rockets in total, please try to help your child to learn these as it will support their fluency when reading and it is expected that they know these by the end of the year.

## Home Learning

This half term we will be introducing 'Talk Homework'. We will write a note/sticker explaining what we would like you to talk about. This is to develop your child's speaking and listening skills, therefore you will not need to write anything down.

## Housekeeping

- When the children start full time, on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> September, the classroom door will be locked at 8.55am each morning. We kindly request that parents leave the setting by this time, so we can make a prompt start to our learning. If you arrive after this time, you will need to take your child to the office to sign in.
- The cloakroom and classroom can become very congested with 60 children and parents coming in each morning, therefore we ask that pushchairs are left outside. We are more than happy for children to be dropped off at the door and to come in independently.
- If your child is absent from school for any reason, please make sure that you phone the office to inform them on 01604 401547 by 9.00am.
- If someone different will be collecting your child from school, please tell the member of staff greeting you at the door in the morning, so they can write it in our messages book, otherwise we will have to contact you before sending them home.
- Please ensure that your child brings their book bag to school each day. It is important that any books borrowed from school are protected and they are also useful for carrying letters, pictures or models.
- Water bottles should only contain water for drinking during lesson time. The children may have squash or juice in their lunch box, but fizzy drinks are not allowed in school. Please **do not** give your child any nut products as we have children and adults in school with severe allergies.
- We would hate to lose any precious toys from home, so please do not allow your child to bring them into school.
- Please be patient with us at the end of the day. It takes some time to dismiss 60 children safely, especially when we are still getting to know all the different people that may pick your child up on various days. It would really help us if you could stand in front your child's classroom window, so we can show them where you are before we send them out.
- Please note the trim trail is unsafe at present and so the children are not allowed to use it at anytime.
- Finally, any donations of boxes of tissues are very welcome as winter draws near!

## Clothing

The following items will be needed in school:

- P.E kit for our P.E. sessions which will be on Mondays. Plimsolls are not required until the summer term and we ask that P.E. bags remain in school until half-term when they will be sent home for a wash. If your child wears earrings please ensure that they are only small studs and that they are removed for PE on Mondays.
- A change of underwear and socks to be kept in your child's P.E. bag (in case of accidents). We always keep spare uniform in school for this purpose. This should be washed and returned to us as soon as possible please.
- The children should always wear a pair of flat, black shoes as stated in the school uniform policy and white, grey or black socks.
- **PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE** name all items of clothing including coats and shoes!!!

If your child has difficulty in putting on jumpers, coats, shoes etc. then please encourage them to learn to do these things independently. It is a great advantage for children if they can dress and undress themselves.

## Parking at school

Please **do not** park in the school car park or drop off zone (the drop off zone is only for KS2 parents who do not need to get out of their cars). Please park on a nearby road, preferably on the other side of the Wellingborough Road and walk the remaining way. This is to both prevent traffic congestion but more importantly to ensure the safety of the children.

Finally, we would like to thank everyone who welcomed us into their homes for the home visits; we really valued the opportunity to spend some time getting to know you and your child in your home environment. We are all looking forward to working with you and your children and to having an exciting and successful year.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to pop in and ask.

The Reception Team

# Getting to know you



## Personal Social and Emotional

*We are learning to...*

- \* be happy to say goodbye in the morning
- \* understand the expectations for behaviour
- \* make friends and get to know each other
- \* learn the routines for the school day
- \* take turns and share our resources
- \* understand that everyone has different talents and needs
- \* be independent learners

## Physical Development

*We are learning to...*

- \* stop, move in a variety of ways, respect other children's personal space and to move in time to music
- \* develop fine motor control through mark making with a wide range of media, with lots of practise at cutting, manipulating malleable materials and through songs and games

## Understanding the World

*We are learning to...*

- \* explore construction resources safely
- \* join construction pieces together to build and balance
- \* find out about our bodies
- \* complete a simple program on the computer
- \* describe and talk about the world around us

## Expressive Arts and Design

*We are learning to...*

- \* draw and paint pictures of ourselves and the world around us
- \* sing songs about ourselves
- \* move in time with the music
- \* explore musical instruments
- \* engage in imaginative play and role play based on our own first-hand experiences

## Communication and Language

We are learning to speak clearly in sentences and to use language to imagine and recreate everyday roles and experiences in play situations.

## Maths

*We are learning to...*

- \* sing number songs involving addition and subtraction
- \* recognise numbers to 10/20
- \* count accurately
- \* name 2-D and 3-D shapes
- \* understand the concepts of more and less and the same as
- \* use numicon and recognise how many each piece represents

## Literacy

*We are learning to...*

- \* enjoy both fiction and non-fiction books
- \* write our names and form all letters correctly on whiteboards, paper, in sand, cornflour and on the ground with chalk, paintbrushes and water (If your child can already write their name, it is very important that they form the letters by starting from the correct place.)
- \* segment short words into sounds
- \* blend sounds together to read words

