

Reception Class Curriculum Newsletter



BRINGING YOU THE LATEST NEWS STRAIGHT FROM THE CLASSROOM



KEY DATES

End of Term 1:
Friday 22nd October

Start of Term 2:
Monday 1st November

Parent Conferences:
Thursday 2nd and
Tuesday 7th December

Reading

This term, we are teaching the children Read. Write. Inc. set 1 sounds. We have sent home a phonics pack with these sounds to practise at home. Please read with your child daily for approximately 10 minutes: this includes practising the set 1 sounds using the pack we sent home and talking about a story together. Discuss the book with your child and ask comprehension questions to check understanding.

A book will be issued that your child will be reading themselves and the children will also get to choose a book from the class. They are not expected to read this one independently but please take the opportunity to enjoy the story together. Please ensure books are returned on **Monday**, so we can send new ones home on **Wednesday**.

Maths

In Reception, we teach maths through Maths Mastery. During our first term, pupils develop a thorough understanding of numbers within 10 through counting on; counting back; comparing sets of objects; and discussing more and fewer, and more and less. We also learn about repeating patterns and 2D shapes.

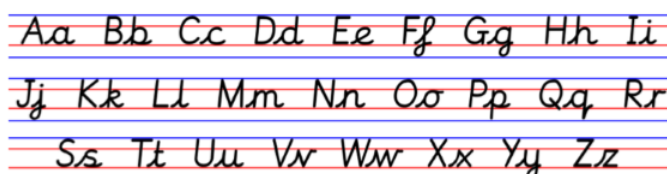
Key vocabulary: more, fewer, less, repeating pattern, pattern, 2D shapes, square, triangle, rectangle, circle

Activities at home: count everyday objects, and look out for shapes and numbers in their environment (e.g. the number 2 bus, a rectangular window, writing numbers 0-6). Sing number songs & rhymes. Copy, continue and begin to create repeating patterns of objects, colours, shapes, sounds and actions.

Fine Motor Skills and Handwriting

In Reception, we support children to develop their fine motor skills in an activity called 'Dough Disco'. Dough Disco encourages children to use their finger muscles to manipulate playdough in different ways. Please see Tapestry for a video on how you can do this at home.

We will begin to practise pencil control and to improve fine motor skills. When the children begin to write, we teach them to use pre-cursive script. Please support your child to write their name in pre-cursive writing at home.



Activities at home: develop fine motor skills (finger muscles) through tracing over lines and patterns; moulding play dough; threading beads; playing with Lego; and practising letter formation.

Literacy

This term, our topic is 'My Family and Me'. We will be talking about families and what makes us unique. Our focus story will be *Owl Babies*. We use Talk for Writing in Reception, where the focus is on children imitating known stories, innovating and inventing their own ideas. The emphasis initially will be on children learning to sequence events in a story and retelling the story in full sentences. We will be sending home story maps to support your child in retelling the story to you.

Key vocabulary: owlets, one day, story map

Science

In science, we will be learning all about our bodies. Children will be able identify parts of their body and learn some of ways the human body works. We will also look at how to keep our bodies healthy.

Key vocabulary: head, neck, shoulders, arms, wrist, hands, fingers, hips, legs, knees, ankles, feet, toes, skeleton, heart, lungs, stomach.

History

In history, we will be learning about our family and our own personal history. We will identify who is in our family and compare these to other families. We will look at different types of houses and homes, food customs around the world and different languages.

Key vocabulary: mum, dad, brother, sister, grandma, grandfather, aunty, uncle.

Music

In their music lessons, the children will be developing their sense of rhythm and pulse, and learning to differentiate between the beat and spoken rhythms. They will learn simple solfege singing, allowing them to make music together and to begin to listen more actively and carefully. We will also be singing songs of roughly ABRSM Grade 1 difficulty and building understanding of how our voices work.

PE

During our first term, we will be focusing on 'multi-skills', with a particular emphasis on fine & gross motor skills. We will be looking to improve children's balance, hand-eye co-ordination and spatial awareness as well as their team work and co-operation.

Reminders

This term, our primary focus is to settle the children into Reception and develop the behaviours that are necessary for successful learning. We have some important class rules that the children have been learning:

1. *I have kind hands, kind feet and kind words.*
2. *I use a quiet voice.*
3. *I use walking feet inside.*
4. *I take care of our things and tidy up.*
5. *I listen to the person who is talking.*

We will also spend lots of time working with children on vital skills needed to become part of a team. We will be working on making new friends, taking turns and sharing.

Each child will need to supply a spare set of clothes which can be kept in school in case of accidents. Children come to school in their PE kit on Mondays and Fridays. Please ensure all clothing is labelled with your child's name.

We are confident that your child will have a happy, productive and enjoyable term, but should you wish to discuss any aspects of their experience at Millbank Academy, please do not hesitate to contact us. We look forward to working with you throughout the year.