

# Reception Class Curriculum Newsletter



BRINGING YOU THE LATEST NEWS STRAIGHT FROM THE CLASSROOM



## KEY DATES

End of term 3 –  
Friday 11<sup>th</sup>  
February

Start of term 4 –  
Monday 21<sup>st</sup>  
February

Parent-Teacher Conferences –  
Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup>  
March

## Literacy

Our focus story this term will be The Tortoise and the Hare and then next term, our focus story will be The Little Red Hen. Just like our last story, the children will learn the story off by heart and then change small parts of the story to create a new story. 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. The children will be challenged to make predictions and draw conclusions. The children will be expected to use their phonics knowledge to read and write daily. We will be sending home story maps to support your child in retelling the story to you. Children will be writing sentences and captions using capital letters, full stops, and finger spaces.

**Key vocabulary:** Tortoise, hare, one day, story map, race, slow, fast, speed, Aesops fables, The Little Red Hen, cow, bull, dog, bread, wheat, grain, plant, grind, bake.

## Maths

We will be continuing to follow the Mathematics Mastery scheme of work and will cover the below topics:

- Grouping and sharing
- Doubling and halving
- Place numbers 0 to 20 in order and say which is one more/less/fewer
- Number formation
- Add and subtract two single-digit numbers
- Properties and comparing 2D and 3D shapes

**Key vocabulary:** more, less, greater than, fewer than, groups of, share, double, half, count, add, subtract.

**Activities at home:** Please support with recognising numbers and writing numerals to 20. Match an object to the corresponding number. Use objects to add, subtract, count on and back from numbers.

## Music

This term, we will continue to develop our understanding of pitch, pulse and rhythm with fun games and exercises while also learning to sing songs of roughly Grade 1 difficulty.

## Reading

This term, the children will continue to follow the Read Write Inc Phonics programme. They will be learning the remaining special friends (sh, qu, ch, th, nk, ng) in set 1 sounds and new sounds in set 2. We will be practising daily reading and writing of these sounds along with common tricky (red) words, so the children become more independent readers and writers.

At the end of each week your child will bring home a 'Ditty Book' once they have read and completed the activities in class. The books will have green and red words to help them to become speedy readers. Please ensure books are returned on Monday, so we can send new one's home on Wednesday.

For each book one night can be used for decoding, as in just reading it through. Use the next night to reread the book and ask questions about what they have read. It is essential to ask your child questions about what they have read, it could be about the story or the meaning of a word. This helps to develop more able and confident readers. Children always enjoy being read to even when they can read fluently for themselves, please continue to provide opportunities for shared reading where you are creating a love of reading with them.

**Key vocabulary:** fingers, capital letters, full stops, finger spaces, sound button, phoneme, special friends (th - 2 sounds together make 1 sound) tricky words.

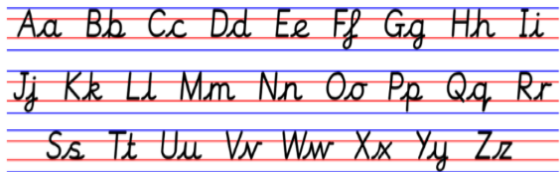
## Communication & Language

This term, the children will be taught to extend their sentences and vocabulary, and to link statements. They will be challenged to respond with relevant comments, questions, or actions, to ideas expressed by others in conversations or discussions. Adults will explain the importance of being a good listener and paying attention to others. Children will be given plenty of opportunity, in different circumstances, to listen and speak with others. The children's contributions to conversations will be valued and used to inform and shape the direction of discussions.

**Key vocabulary:** and, because, but, so, full sentence.

## Fine Motor Skills & Handwriting

We will continue to support Reception children to handle equipment and tools effectively, including pencils for writing. When the children begin to write, we teach them to use pre-cursive script. Please support your child to write in pre-cursive 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.

## Notices

This term, our focus is to encourage children to continue to follow the rules of the classroom and encourage the children to use their manners and be polite. To encourage children to be confident to speak about their own needs/opinions and share their thoughts in front of the group. There will be a strong focus on listening and taking account of what others say. Adults will model being a considerate and responsive partner in interactions. We will also spend lots of time working with children to begin to find compromise with peers and understand the effect of their actions on others.

Children come to school in their PE kit on Mondays and Tuesdays.

Thank you for all your support during the last term and to everyone that has shared such wonderful photos and videos from home of their children's learning, we love to see them! Please do speak to us if you are having trouble accessing or uploading photos/videos on Tapestry. We will continue to share the children's learning with you on this platform.

We look forward to your continued support in the coming term. If you would like to speak to any of the Early Years Team regarding concerns or worries that you may have, please do not hesitate to do so.

## Art

This term, we are learning about Winter in art, looking at the painting "Winter" by Julian Trevelyan, and work by Barbara Hepworth, using a variety of techniques such as printmaking and 3D modelling to develop our fine motor skills and imaginations. Vocabulary: Winter, seasons, weather, 3D form, model, structure, printmaking, repeat.

Next term, we will be exploring different materials, using paint and textures to create independent artworks. We will also respond to the work of Land Artists Andy Goldsworthy, Nancy Holt and Richard Long, working outside and using our environment as inspiration. Vocabulary: Land Art, environment, temporary, materials, texture.

## PE

This term, we will be introducing gymnastics. We will be looking at travelling movements, climbing, jumping and landing. We will also be using the mats to work on our gross motor skills.

## Science, Geography & History

This term, the children will be learning to recognise and name that they live on the planet Earth and that there are other planets in space. They will learn that the shape of planet Earth is a sphere and the world's surface is made up of land and water. The children will also learn that the largest areas of land in the world are called continents and have specific names: Asia, Africa, Europe, North America, South America, Oceania, and Antarctica.

Additionally, the children will be exploring the season of winter and make observations about their changing environment. They will make daily observations of the sky and learn about different types of weather.

In Spring 2, children will be learning about materials and what things are made from: plastic, wood, metal, glass and fabric. The children will participate in various experiments to help them learn the properties of different materials (hard, soft, smooth, rough, flexible, stiff, transparent, waterproof, magnetic and shiny).

In History, the children will be building on their knowledge of understanding the concepts of past and present and exploring the idea of old and new. The children will look at old and new photographs, toys, technology and clothes.