



Early Years Foundation Stage Nursery and Reception Newsletter Spring Term 1 2023 - 2024

Welcome back and Happy New Year to you all. Mrs Carter, Mrs Oakes, Mrs Blane and I all hope you had a lovely Christmas and enjoyed some family time and hopefully a little rest in amongst the festivities. This term we welcome Mrs Lee to the Early Years team. She will be supporting children across the Early Years on a Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. We know you will help us to welcome her into our Twyford School community. We are all looking forward to the arrival of Mrs Rumble's babies later this term and will pass on any news to you when we hear more.

Curriculum

This half term our focus is on the 'Season of Winter' and we will be exploring all the season has to offer through a range of hands on experiences and exploration of some Winter themed stories. We will also enjoy learning about some upcoming festivals and celebrations, including Chinese New Year.

Throughout the Autumn term we focused on developing the prime areas of learning including Personal, Social and Emotional Development, Communication and Language and Physical Development. We will continue to embed routines and expectations and develop key self-care and independence skills. The children in Reception have started to dress and undress themselves for PE and are making great progress with being able to do this independently. Our Nursery children are becoming very independent with changing their shoes for wellies and putting their coats on. This half term we will also explore the importance of oral hygiene for healthy teeth.

Phonics

Daily phonics sessions for all Reception pupils will continue following our phonics programme 'Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised'. During this term we will continue to learn more phonemes and continue to work on segmenting and blending sounds in order to read and spell simple words and sentences. Each week we will continue to send home sound cards with the phonemes that have been taught during these lessons in school. We have also begun daily handwriting sessions to support the children to form the graphemes they are learning in our phonic sessions.

English

This half term Reception will begin focussed Literacy sessions. These adult led sessions will link very closely with both their phonics learning and the texts we are exploring in our class reading. Children will be supported to begin writing words and completing simple sentences in meaningful contexts within these sessions.

Maths

Nursery children will continue to develop their early counting and number skills through their play and exploration of the activities in our indoor and outdoor provision. They will have the opportunity to listen to and join in with popular number rhymes.

In addition to the activities and resources available through our continuous provision. Reception children will continue with a daily focused maths session. These sessions follow the White Rose Maths programme of learning in line with the Maths teaching throughout the rest of the school. The focus for this half term will be on developing our knowledge of numbers 0-5. Children will develop a greater understanding of the composition of these numbers and the different ways that they can be represented. We will also work on finding one more and one less and improving our subitising skills. Subitising is a maths strategy that is more efficient when dealing with smaller numbers. It helps children to see how numbers are made up. For example, you can make the number five using different pairs: 0+5, 1+4 and 2+3.

Reading

Reading Books

During last term, all children in Reception received their first reading books along with their very own reading bear. These books are linked to our phonics scheme and contain phonemes that we have learnt during our daily phonics sessions. Please continue to send these books back into school each day so that your child can also read with adults in school. It is so important for your child to have the opportunity to practise and develop their reading skills as often as possible and we greatly appreciate your support in reading daily with your child at home. Many of the Reception children have already achieved their Bronze Reading award and we even have a few that are almost ready to collect their Silver. Keep up the hard work!

Lending Library

Thank you for supporting the lending library last term. Many of the children enjoyed borrowing books and sharing them at home. It was lovely to see their engagement with it. The lending library will return this term with a new selection of books. A reminder that children are free to change their books at any time. Feel free to keep them for a few weeks or change them every other day.

Rhyme Time

Both Nursery and Reception will continue with our weekly rhyme time. Each class will learn five new rhymes during this half term. Keep an eye out on Tapestry to see which rhyme we are learning each week!

PE

Mr Goodwin and Mr Dalmedo will be continuing with our twice weekly PE sessions in Reception. This half term we will continue to work towards our independence and self-care skills by changing into and out of PE kits during each lesson. Please ensure a full PE kit is in school for this half term. Our PE days will remain flexible through the week so we will keep kits in school for the term unless they are in need of washing. For a full list of PE uniform please see the school website and ensure all items are clearly labelled in a named bag. Where possible PE sessions will take place outdoors so please ensure your child has appropriate warmer clothing as the weather changes.

Nursery children do not have a structured PE session as so much of our day-to-day provision includes activities to support physical development but please do ensure that they come to Nursery dressed comfortably and appropriately for the physical activities they are likely to engage in.

Tapestry

Tapestry is our Early Years online learning platform. It is our main tool for communication so please do check in regularly. We share weekly updates, photographs and information between home and school.

We love to see your updates and adventures at home also so please post photographs and share your news by uploading Tapestry posts to us.

Magic Moments

Thank you for all the wonderful Magic Moment certificates we received throughout last half term. It was great for us to celebrate the fantastic achievements of your children with their class members. Blank certificates will be given each half term, so please do share those special and wonderful things your child achieves at home with us here in school too.

Weather/Appropriate Clothing

We will continue to spend much of the day outdoors so please ensure that your child has a pair of wellies to keep here in school throughout the year. Please also make sure your child comes to school every day with a waterproof coat, hat and gloves and that all of these items are clearly named. Please also keep in mind that play and learning in early years can be messy. We will endeavour to encourage children to wear aprons, wellies etc but please consider keeping best clothes at home. It is really important that children feel free to explore the setting without worrying about 'making a mess' of their clothes. This is all part of the learning process and some mess is inevitable when children are learning to become independent.

Our cloakroom space is very limited so please could we ask that if you are bringing PE kits or spare clothes into school, these are in a small rucksacks or drawstring bags which will not take up a large space on the children's pegs. We also ask that children do not come to school with more than one small keyring on their book bag. Some children are coming to school with multiple large toys attached to their book bags and unfortunately this means that they don't fit into their drawers. Thank you for your help with this.

Toddler and Baby Group

Our toddler group continues to run every Friday morning in term time from 9:45 – 11:00 am in the School Hall. Please do pop on down with your younger ones and spread the word to families and friends. No booking required, just turn up, relax with a cup of tea and enjoy watching your little ones play!

Hopefully this newsletter has given you a brief snapshot into the exciting term ahead. If you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to pop in and speak to any member of the Early Years team and don't forget to check out Tapestry and the school website for regular updates and news.

Mrs S Butcher
Reception Class Teacher