

# Reception Class Newsletter



Dear Parents and Guardians,

11th October 2024



## Forest School

We have had a huge response to children wanting to attend the Forest School After School Club. Danny (from Everton in the Community) who runs the Forest School initiative will let school staff know which children will be in the first group to attend and so on. All children who have returned the forms will be given the opportunity to attend but it may not be until the second or third group. As soon as we are aware we will let you know when your child will attend.



In phonics we continue the daily session which involves teaching the children to read that day's focus letter and also write the letter with correct letter formation. The children then spend time oral blending sounds into words (using letters they can recognise) as well as writing these words. Thank you for your support with this at home in using the QR codes which are sent home on a weekly basis. It really does make the difference to your child's progress.



In Maths we have continued to focus on pattern and also on size. The story of Goldilocks and the Three bears was read giving the opportunity to revise simple size vocabulary. The story and song can be found on YouTube.

All children have now been assessed using WellComm, a speech and language intervention assessment (which was used in our school nursery and in many nurseries). For those children who are not at the expected standard in their speech and language they will receive extra support in this area to ensure progress is being made. For parents of these children you will be informed of the targets which are being set for your child, so this can also be supported at home. For children who are identified as being significantly below the expected standard a referral to "Speech and Language" will be made with your consent.

Reception Staff

# Reception Class Newsletter



Dear Parents and Guardians,

18th October 2024



Children are progressing well in the daily phonics session. Once children are able to recognise all letter sounds and blend them to make words, a book with words that they can read will be sent home each Friday. Nearly all of the letters of the alphabet have now been taught. When you are out and about encourage your child to notice print around them. In the kitchen at home, labels on food packages are a good source of print. For example can you find “m” or “s” and so on. Playing a game of “I Spy” something beginning with “b” “bread” for example is another useful game to play.



In maths we have continued with a focus on pattern, size and early number concepts. The children are doing really well particularly at spotting pattern and using the vocabulary of, “next”, “continuing” and “repeated”.



Thank you to those children who brought leaves, acorns and conkers they had found, indicating signs of Autumn. We would like to use these objects in class next week, the more the better so please continue to bring to school.

In “**My Happy Mind**” lessons this week we have been talking about our emotions. The focus has been on simple emotions that make us feel happy and calm and also to recognise big emotions that might make us feel sad or upset.

The aim is also to help children recognise which emotions may make their Team H-A-P work well together and not so well together. When all 3 parts of the team are awake and working together, we can be our best selves and happy. When the H head (Hippocampus) and P head (Pre-frontal cortex) go to sleep, we cannot be our best selves and we can show some ‘Big Emotions’, making us sad. We explored the following emotions: happy, calm, peaceful, excited, surprised, sad, angry, upset, scared, worried.

Thank you for your constant support,

Reception Staff

# Reception Class Newsletter



8th November 2024

Dear Parents and Guardians,



This week we had a monitoring visit from a member of staff working for the “English Hub”. She was accompanied by our school Phonics Lead, Miss Sargent. The purpose of the English Hub on a national scale is to promote three priority areas: **Early Language Development, Age-Appropriate Phonics Provision** and to **Promote a Love of Reading**. They both commented on how well the children are progressing and wanted us to pass on their appreciation of the support you give your child at home specifically in this area. Your support really does make a difference to your child’s progress and attainment in school. The children are assessed each week and placed in ability groups with children at the same ability level. In this way all children’s next steps are planned for and taught.

In maths, a focus has been on “1 more” and “1 less”. Developing a concept of number by realising adding more, the number gets bigger or increases, taking one away the number decreases or gets smaller is something we are working on. Simple games at home can be showing a set of fingers, ask your child to show you “1 more” or “1 less”. “5 is 1 more than 4.” “4 is 1 less than 5.” Drop coins into a cup, count the sounds, predict if you take one out how many will be left in the cup? If you add 1 more, how many will be in the cup? Stories to support this mathematical concept include, *The Three Billy Goats Gruff* and *A Squash and a Squeeze* by Julia Donaldson.



Rhymes including *5 Little Speckled Frogs* and *1 Elephant went out to Play* also involve basic counting involving adding more or taking away. These can all be found on YouTube. White Rose Maths offer an online platform '1 Minute Maths' to support home learning through the White Rose framework. In order to access '1 Minute Maths', parents/carers will need to input a 3 word password unique to each class.

Reception B's 3 word password is bid-lit-alt. Reception R's 3 word password is bed-arf-pen. Below is the link to White Rose Maths:

<https://whiteroseeducation.com/1-minute-maths>

In “**My Happy Mind**” lessons this week we have been talking about the character strength, Love and Kindness. The children had to think about how they use kind hands or words and how that had made someone feel, by being offered kindness. The children all agreed that when someone is kind to us it gives us a good feeling inside.



## Dates to Remember

- Friday 15th November Children in Need Day Children can wear something yellow or spotty alongside the usual school uniform.
- Reception Christmas Nativity Friday 6th December  
RR Mrs Riley 10:00am—10:30am  
RB Mrs Bell 2:00am—2:30pm



Thank you for your constant support,

Reception Staff

# Reception Class Newsletter



10th January 2025

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Happy New Year and welcome back to the Spring Term in school. The weather has been a challenge this week. Due to the snow and ice the outdoor space was reduced to the section under the shelter only due to safety reasons. The addition of the bigger shelter which took place in the summer holidays to our outdoors meant the children in Early Years were still able to access outdoor learning, which is crucial at this age in particular. Please if you do have them at home make sure your child brings a hat, scarf and gloves to school with them. We do have some spares available so please don't worry if you don't. On Wednesday when the whole school entered through the single door at the front of the school (due to icy playgrounds) staff would like to pass on their thanks and thoughts on how proud they were of all of the children and how sensible they reacted to this change in their routine.



After being assessed by the Phonics Lead, Miss Sargeant, at the end of the Autumn Term all children have now been regrouped according to their specific attainment and progress in phonics to ensure their next steps are met and progress continues. Children are taught in small groups specific to their needs. Thank you for supporting your child in phonics at home it really does make a difference when school and home work together and this can be seen in children's progress and attainment. The % of children on track for the expected standard in phonics by the end of Reception (in readiness for the Phonics Screening Check in Year 1) has risen remarkably since their last assessment which took place mid-autumn term. A big well done!



In maths, a focus has been on "zero" and recognising an "empty" set of objects. Revision of basic counting, representing numbers and subitising has also taken place. Playing games of dominoes and snakes and ladders support all of the above. In the coming weeks maths games will be sent home for you to play at home with your child to support number work as well as most importantly turn taking and the development of many other personal and social skills.

In "My Happy Mind" sessions the focus for the next half-term is APPRECIATE. This week we talked about being grateful and thankful. Discussions were based on who the children were grateful for in their life and give reasons why. One little boy said he was grateful for his Grandad who makes the best meatballs you have ever tasted! We also talked about how we can show someone we are grateful to them by saying simply thank-you, giving a hug, a high-5, a smile and so on and then how this makes that person feel.

In RE, over the next half-term the children will be listening to stories Jesus heard and also stories Jesus told. This week they heard the story of Moses.

Reception Staff

# Reception Class Newsletter



17th January 2025

Dear Parents and Guardians,

A much better week weather wise but apologies for muddy shoes and clothing. Due to the amount of sand and grit used last week to clear the snow and ice, the grey side yard has been left very dirty underfoot. Hopefully a good downpour of rain at some point will wash it all away.



Please ensure you write in your child's Reading Record Book each week as it is important for staff to be able to read your comments. Depending on the phonic stage your child is working at they may be bringing home more than one book.

Please record all books in their Reading Record Book. Your comments are valuable and feedback to staff how you feel your child is progressing at home.

At the end of the Autumn Term all children were assessed to monitor how their Communication and Language skills are progressing. As a result of this some children are now accessing NELI, which is a Speech and Language Intervention. All children who are involved in this will have received a letter home. The intervention takes place on a daily basis with a very small group of children. The intervention is proven to have a positive impact not only in language skills but also helps with turn taking, sharing and how to be a good listener!



In maths, we have been revising one more and one less than a given number and also working on the composition of 5. For example, if there are 3 horses in a field how many more will need to be added to make 5 horses altogether. Raise your hand showing 4 fingers, how many more do we need to make 5 and so on.

In "My Happy Mind" sessions, continuing with the theme of APPRECIATE, we talked about not only people around us who we are grateful and thankful for but also about our characteristics and experiences we are grateful for.

Within "Understanding the World" (links with Geography as the children move to Year 1) the children have been introduced to simple maps and have identified key elements, for example, roads, rivers, the sea, fields, gardens, our school, houses and so on. Using Google Maps we were able to zoom in on our school and identify key features in the local area. Some children knew their address. We were able to follow their route to school using directional vocabulary. Check with your child do they know their address and we can do more routes next time. The children loved being able to tell their friends all about their journey.

A reminder the school day starts at 8:40am.

Many thanks for your support,

Reception Staff



# Reception Class Newsletter



19th December 2024

Dear Parents and Guardians,

It's hard to believe the children have now completed their first term in school. Book monitoring and Learning Journey monitoring has shown how far the children have come in such a short time and the progress made by individual children has been a pleasure to see.

Each child has been given a certificate to signify they have completed the "Celebrate" section in "MyHappyMind".

This week's activities included the Christmas Grotto with a very special visit by Father Christmas himself followed by the Santa Dash on Wednesday. The children really enjoyed each experience.

A reminder that school closes on Friday at 1:30pm and reopens on Monday 6th January.

All staff would like to wish you and your family a happy and peaceful Christmas.

Warmest wishes,

Reception Staff

