



Dear Parents,

We are delighted to welcome all our new children and families to the school. The children have settled in very well and we are looking forward to them joining us for full days next week. Throughout the day the children participate in a wide range of child-initiated and adult-led activities both indoors and outdoors. The Reception timetable usually looks like this:

Monday Mrs Bailey	Tuesday Mrs Bailey	Wednesday Mrs Bailey	Thursday Miss Douglas	Friday Miss Douglas
EYFS activities inc English, Maths & Phonics PE	EYFS activities inc English, Maths & Phonics Mile A Day	EYFS activities inc English, Maths & Phonics	EYFS activities inc English, Maths & Phonics Mile A Day Library	EYFS activities inc English, Maths & Phonics RE and music

School Values:



Our core value this term is **INDEPENDENCE**, in Reception the children are given the opportunity to explore their learning environment and begin to independently engage with activities through play. We also encourage the children to enter the classroom independently, take care of their own belongings and to change for PE all by themselves.

Topic

Our topics in Reception are inspired by the children's interests and children are involved in the planning of each topic. Our general themes for this term are 'All about me', 'Dinosaurs', 'Diwali', 'People who help us' and 'Christmas'.

English

Phonics

Over the course of this term the children will take part in daily phonics sessions, they will practice writing all 26 of the letter sounds in the alphabet and will use these to blend (read) and segment (write) simple words. The children will also bring home phonics packs with cards of the letter sounds that they are learning. Please read regularly and practice with the phonics cards at home.

Writing

The children will be taught rhymes to learn how to form each lower case letter correctly. The children will be learning to write using a type of cursive script. We have a programme called Letterjoin they can access at home to help them with this. Log in details were in the induction pack, but please let us know if you need another copy.

Reading books

Most children will receive their first reading book around October half term. Initially, these will be wordless picture books, which are a fantastic tool to develop speaking and listening skills. Please encourage your child to talk about the characters and setting in the story, make predictions and answer questions related to the events. As their sound recognition and blending skills develop they will be given their first book with words.

Once they have their reading books, please make sure that your child's book and reading record always go into their book bag and initial the reading record, so that we know when the children have read. The children will place their reading books and records in the book tray every morning.

Maths

In Reception Maths teaching is based on the EYFS curriculum and supported by the use of White Rose 'Mastery Maths' resources.

This term the children will be:

- Working on their understanding of numbers
- Finding out one more and one less of a number
- Learning about time

We will be concentrating on the numbers 1-5 and look forward to explaining a little about the White Rose 'Mastery Maths' at our meet the teacher afternoon. Please help your child at home by encouraging them to count forwards and backwards and to count objects one at a time.

PE

Please make sure your child has their full PE kit and Mile a Day shoes in school every day. Every item of clothing in the PE kit should have a label with your child's name. This term the children will be taking part in PE activities that further develop their spatial awareness, balance, coordination and agility. The children will be expected to change by themselves so any extra practice you can do at home would be appreciated.

PSHE (Personal, Social and Emotional Development)

PSHE is woven throughout the curriculum and enhanced during our circle time sessions and assemblies. It involves helping children to develop a positive sense of themselves and others, build positive relationships and develop respect for themselves, others and property. The activities enable children to learn how to identify and manage their feelings; understand appropriate behaviour in groups; have confidence in their own abilities and keep themselves healthy and safe.

RE (Religious Education)

This term children will be learning about Diwali, stories from the Bible about Jesus and Moses and Christmas. This half term they will also be practicing for the Harvest Festival...

Show and Tell

The children will develop their speaking and listening skills in a range of activities, including 'show and tell'. For show and tell this half term we would like the children to bring in a small bag containing 4 items that tell us all about them. This could include family photographs, drawings, special objects/toys or objects related to an activity that they enjoy.

Show and Tell

W/B Monday 23/09/19 – Badgers

W/B Monday 30/09/19 – Hedgehogs

W/B Monday 07/09/19 – Squirrels

W/B Monday 14/09/19 – Foxes

Sharing Assembly

Look out for invitations to our sharing assembly. Roughly once a term you will be invited to join your child in our Friday assembly and hear them speak about a special piece of work. If you cannot make the date please let us know and we will happily change the date of your child's sharing assembly.

Homework

- Reading and library books: As mentioned above reading books and phonics letter cards will be introduced this term and we will send out a letter about this closer to the time. In the meantime, the children will be visiting our school library every Thursday and will be bringing a book back home to read for pleasure.
- Letter Formation: Your child will soon be sent home with a laminated name card. Please use this to help your child to write each letter in their name using the school's letter formation, encouraging your child to recite the letter rhymes as they write. These will be found on the back of the laminated name card.

Ways to Help Your Child at Home

Please find below some suggested activities that will help to support your child's learning in school. The most important thing to remember is to ensure these activities are fun and stimulating, as this will help your son or daughter to develop a love of learning.

- Number hunting- Numbers are everywhere, encourage your child to spot them wherever you go!
- Shopping- Challenge your child to write you a shopping list, can they help you to count out the correct number of fruit/vegetables, allow them the opportunity to pay using real money.
- Cooking- Encourage your child to get messy in the kitchen! Talk about ingredients, where do they come from? Can they help you to follow the recipe and weigh the correct amount of each ingredient? Talk about changes that occur during cooking/cooling.
- Fine motor skills- There are several fun and practical ways to help to develop your child's fine motor control which will enable them to manipulate a pencil with good control. These include, pegging washing on the washing line, threading beads/pasta, cutting with scissors, wringing out flannels/squeezing water out of empty bottles in the bath and manipulating playdough (pinching and squeezing).
- Dressing and Undressing- Please continue to practice dressing and undressing into and out of school uniform, zipping up coats and putting shoes onto the correct foot.

After a great start to the year we are looking forward to a fun, stimulating term. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any further queries or questions.

Kind regards

Mrs Bailey, Miss Douglas and The Reception Team