

# Reception Class Newsletter

TERM

Autumn 2 2023

We hope you have had a lovely Half Term Break.  
Our theme for this first half term is 'Magic and Celebrations'

**Child Initiated Learning (Play):** A significant part of each of our days is dedicated to child-initiated learning (Play). We use these opportunities to interact and engage with the children and support their learning. We will continue the 'Focus Child' approach. This is uploaded to Tapestry at the end of their Focus week. 'Wow' moments of learning throughout the week for all children will also be recorded on Tapestry alongside this approach.

**Phonics and Reading** We will continue following the Read Write Inc scheme for phonics teaching. This term we will be consolidating the Set 1 sounds and developing our confidence to blend to read and segment to write words. It is important to support your children to regularly read and share their reading books. Please use the reading record books we provide to record when they read, how much they read and how they got on. These reading records and books should be brought into school **every day** to enable in class reading and book changes. The books should be read multiple times at home to develop fluency and understanding as well as the mechanics of deciphering the words. The Oxford Owl website provides resources for parents to support your own understanding of phonics and also ideas on how to support your child <https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/reading/reading-schemes-oxford-levels/read-write-inc-phonics-guide/>

**Maths** We follow the White Rose Maths scheme. We will be using Numberblocks to further support our mathematical understanding. This term we will be focusing on deepening our understanding of numbers to 5 – subitising, knowing compositions of these numbers. We will explore one more and one less and develop our shape understanding. Alongside our whole class teaching there is the continual opportunity for children to develop these skills during their own play.

**Theme** During this term we will explore Halloween, Bonfire Night, Diwali and Christmas. We will be entering the Christmas Tree Festival at the Christmas Fair and performing our own Christmas Play – I-Spy Christmas.

**Helicopter Stories** Children are natural storytellers. In Reception we encourage the children to 'tell' us their stories. These are scribed by the adult into our special storybook. The stories are scribed exactly as the children tell them. We then sit as a class and the children act out their stories. Photographs of your child's story will be uploaded to Tapestry for you to be able to read.

**Message Centre** This approach has been developed to sprinkle joy, excitement and a love of messaging (early writing) into their play. This begins with secret symbols then moves to letters and words and the children hide and find these messages around our classroom and in their play. It aims to give children the confidence to have a go at mark-making/writing. This is all part of our co-play and engaging children in wonder of the world and the joy to be found in writing. 'Bob the Brick' acts as our messaging portal with the Minpins. The Minpins will need help this term with making wands, remembering their magic words, writing passcodes and with help to write their Christmas lists.

**Drawing Club** These sessions explore the magic of stories through drawings. It aims to develop language skills, vocabulary, mark-making, mathematics and their imaginative skills. The children were very engaged with these sessions last term and we will continue to build on this throughout this term using the books 'What's in the witch's kitchen?', 'Room on the Broom' and 'Stick Man'

**RE and PSHE** In RE we will be exploring the idea of "What is Christmas?" We will develop our mindfulness strategies through our PSHE and our unit this term will be "Celebrations".

**PE** On a Thursday morning we will have our PE session. The children need to wear their PE kit to school (black/blue shorts/trousers, plain white t-shirt and school jumper/cardigan, and trainers). We will be developing a firework dance and then working on our gymnastics, especially our rolling and balancing.

**Woodlands and Nature Study** Once a week we will explore our on-site woodland. We aim to develop an enjoyment and curiosity of nature. This term our focus will be 'Autumn' and 'Winter' and will also include learning about spiders, hedgehogs and birds. We have all-in-one waterproofs and wellies for the children to use. Your children need to have coats, hats and gloves as necessary for the weather.

**Dough Disco, Cosmic Yoga and Just Dance** We have sessions using one of these approaches several times a week. These aim to develop both gross and fine motor skills alongside our listening and attention.

**Bright Ideas Time** This is a whole school science initiative which we have adapted in Reception. Every week we will explore 'Big questions' or discuss 'Odd one out'. These questions have visual prompts and allow the children to share their own ideas and thinking where there are no 'right' answers.

**Music Time** Our focus this term will be on learning and performing the songs for our Christmas Play.

### **General Information**

- **Please name EVERYTHING!** If you do not have access to labels, stickers or a sharpie pen then please ask one of our staff and we will very happily write your child's name in for you.
- Ensure your child has a set of spare clothes in their school bag every day.
- Remember to bring a named water bottle into school each day.
- A fruit snack is provided each day for the children's snack. There is also milk available via the Cool Milk scheme.
- As part of the 'Focus Child' approach, we will send home an information sheet for you to contribute to when it is your child's week. Please complete and return these to school as requested.
- A reminder that the messaging section of ClassDojo is not used. If you send a message to us via ClassDojo we will not see it and will therefore not respond. Any messages should be sent via the school office email address.
- PE day is a Thursday. The children should wear their PE kit to school each Thursday.
- At the end of term our class will perform 'I-Spy Christmas' to all our parents. We have assigned the children to the different roles for our play and we will be sending home a costume letter this week. This gives the date we need all costumes into school by. Please speak to a member of our staff if you are having any difficulty in arranging an appropriate costume.

### Useful Key Dates:

- Roving Books Day – Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> November. This is a visiting book shop who set up in the school hall. The children can bring in some money if you would like them to buy a book during our class visit.
- Sponsored Events – During the week of 6<sup>th</sup> November. Sponsorship forms need to be returned to school, payments can be made via Arbor
- Parent Consultation Meetings – During the week of 6<sup>th</sup> November. Appointments can be booked via Arbor. These are 10 minute appointments to discuss how your child has settled into school and how they are getting on. All meetings will be in the school hall and you can enter the building through the hall doors (just past the main Office doors)
- Christmas Jumper Day – Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December (bring a donation for the Christmas tombola)
- Christmas Fair – Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December – evening
- Reception Class Christmas Play 'I-Spy Christmas' – Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December at 9.30 (lasting approximately 15/20 minutes)