

# Reception (Oak) Autumn Term Newsletter

## Welcome

Welcome to your first term as parents of a full time pupil! I hope you had a lovely summer break and I am looking forward to working with you and your child this year.

As the children start their education journey, a lot will happen to them each day, which they will forget to tell you! I hope that this newsletter will help to keep you informed on what they will be learning, and how you can help to make the transition to full time education as smooth as possible for them.

## Ashwell Learning Journey Topic

A lot of time will be spent settling the children into new routines, going to lunch, getting changed for PE, using the library, and teaching them about the behaviour expectations for Reception children. The first few weeks we will be getting to know your children, both socially and academically, where they are at, and their next steps. This will help us build a baseline assessment of them.

Our 'Ashwell Learning Journey' topic for this first half term is called 'Superheroes and Super Me'! We will be finding out all about your wonderful children, their interests and describing what they look like. Within this, we will also be looking at the people in their families and why they are important to them. We will then explore the superheroes of the world, looking at people who help us in the community, aided by inviting members of our community in to talk and explain their roles to the children.

In the second half term, we will be learning about festivals and celebrations including; Harvest, Bonfire night, Diwali, Hanukkah and Christmas. We will be discussing and comparing different communities and cultures around the world and how they may celebrate these occasions. The children will be taking part in their Early Years Christmas production.

## Prime Area of Learning:

(Communication & Language, Personal, Social and Emotional Development & Physical Development)

Our focus for this term will be settling in. The children will be learning about the school rules, generating their own class charter and exploring the zones of regulation to support them with their emotional regulation. The children will develop their speaking and listening skills and will practice concentrating and sitting on the carpet for longer periods. They will develop their responsibility to select resources they wish to play with during child initiated learning and tidy them away afterwards.

Encouraging their independence will be key – from visiting the toilets themselves, wiping their own bottoms, putting on their coat, getting changed for PE and looking after their belongings.

In our PE lessons, we will be exploring fundamental movement skills and dance. In addition to the discrete weekly PE lessons, children will have plenty of opportunities throughout the day to develop their gross motor skills and engage in risky play to support co-ordination and balance.

This year, a focus of our EYFS will be to continue to develop and evolve children's communication and language and offer further opportunities for children to share and talk. Each Friday across a term, 2 or 3 children will be selected to bring something in from home that they would like to talk about during our together time slot. This will be different to regular show & tell where children bring in an achievement or something they have made but instead can be of anything that the child chooses. A list will be sent out soon to notify you in advance of when your child's Friday slot is.



## Specific Areas of Learning

(Literacy, Maths, Understanding the World, Expressive Arts & Design)

Each day the children will have a phonics session, a maths session and a guided reading session. We aim to teach the children 4 new phonic sounds per week in the Autumn term and will be starting from phase 2. I will communicate daily via marvellous me, the sound that we have been learning with a link to a video to show you the correct pronunciation. Your child will read with a member of staff at least twice a week that aligns to the sounds they are learning in class, as well as exploring fluency and comprehension, this will be recorded on 'boom reader'.

Our maths sessions are always practical and the children will use manipulatives to explore new concepts and support them with developing their understanding of number. This term, we will be looking at subitising numbers, counting to 20, comparing measures and exploring patterns.

Last year, Years 1-6 launched Essentials Writing across their classes which has had a huge impact on the quality of writing and children's attitudes towards it. We are excited to share that Hertfordshire has now launched an EYFS Essentials Writing, which we will be adopting in our EYFS unit. This will continue to strengthen the quality of our Literacy curriculum and offer further opportunities for children to develop their love for reading, writing and develop their communication and language.

### Other Messages:

PE – Our PE lessons will be on a Tuesday afternoon and a Thursday morning. PE bags need to remain in school all week and be taken home on a Friday to be washed. Please ensure every item is named (including socks)!

Library – We will visit the library on Monday mornings so please ensure library books are in book bags on Mondays. Library books are identifiable by the laminated bar code on the inside cover.

Toileting – Now the children are staying all day, they are using the toilet more. Please can you encourage the children to wipe their own bottoms to support their independence.

Snacks – Your child is more than welcome to bring a small snack in to eat in the afternoon. Please can you ensure this is a healthy snack and in line with our policy.

Reading – Please share your child's reading book with them at least 5 days a week. Initially this will mean reading the story with them and talking about what they have read to develop their comprehension. Once they begin to read themselves, you will be listening to them decode and blend the words through application of their phonics. Please record this on your child's online reading record 'boom reader'.

Tapestry – Your child's online learning journal will be recorded via Tapestry. Please support our understanding of the whole child by contributing to their journal when you are able.

Forest Friday – Outdoor Learning sessions will be on a Friday morning. Please ensure children come appropriately dressed and bring a carrier bag for muddy clothes and wellies.

It has been lovely getting to know your children, and building a relationship with them. They have been having lots of fun whilst learning and have really settled well. I look forward to meeting you at Parents Evening to discuss their progress.

Best wishes,

Miss Meehan