**RECEPTION**

**NEWSLETTER**

**Welcome to Reception**

Firstly, can I wish a massive warm welcome to all our new Reception children and their families. We have eagerly anticipated your arrival for so long and we are so excited that you have now joined our school family.

Over the next few days and weeks, we will be spending lots of time getting to know each other and assessing where the children are at in all areas of learning. We will put particular focus on their Communication and Language skills and Personal, Social and Emotional Development in order that they develop the skills of interacting with their peers that so many of them will have missed out on due to a disrupted final pre-schoolyear.

The children have already absorbed a lot of new information and have done a fantastic job of remembering the rules and routines of the classroom. Here are just a few reminders of what the children need with them on a day to day basis and some other hints and tips.

* Please make sure your child has a book bag (available from our uniform supplier). This will be placed in the boxes in the classroom and will contain their home school diary and reading books as well as any physical resources or communication we may need to send home.
* As Reception children love going out in all weathers it is handy if a raincoat or jacket available in school at all times. A spare pair of socks in their book bag also may come in useful if they get their feet a little wet!
* Please ensure your child has their name in all items of clothing, including shoes!
* Fruit is available for your child every day in our snack bar along with milk for those who have ordered it (if you haven’t already signed up this can still be done through Cool Milk) The children are responsible for deciding when and if they want it and for clearing up when they’ve finished. We will regularly remind children to drink lots of water throughout the day. Children need bring a water bottle into school to use in the classroom but it must only contain water. This will be refilled during the day by staff if needed.

Thank you for your support in making our first few days at school run smoothly. There’s plenty more information to come, but if anyone has any questions in the meantime, you know where to find us!

**Miss Martin and the Reception Team**

**Dates for your diary**

Fri 23rd Oct. – Last day at school before half term holiday.

Mon 2nd Nov. – First day back at school for children after the half term holiday.

Fri 18th Dec – Last day of school before Christmas holiday.

Tue 5th Jan – First day back at school for children after the Christmas holiday.

**Learning Journey**

We love finding out about what your children can do when they are at home and any evidence you can provide will help to inform our assessments in school. We have put in your child’s home school diary a ‘Look What I’ve Been Doing template’. Feel free to ask for more of these.

Another option is for you to send this information electronically via Class Dojo.

**Reading books**

We will endeavour to read with your child regularly. Reading books will be changed once a week and Home School Diaries and reading books need to be in school every day. Children are expected to read their individual reading book a minimum 3 times each week at home as well as completing shared reading and regularly practising their phonics from the week. Please see our Phonics and Early Reading Video for more information and please check our home learning page for regular updates.

**Maths**

This half term we will focus primarily on number and place value. We will begin by exploring numbers small numbers in great detail including representing these numbers in different ways, addition and subtraction, number bonds and using number frames and part whole models. If children are already confident with this we will challenge them with increasingly larger numbers. We will also look more generally at sorting and comparison as the precursor to more advanced mathematical skills. During independent learning time children will be able to explore applying these skills often to larger numbers if they are already confident with these. Please see our home learning page for more information.

Children will often show an interest in numbers at home or out of school. Do not forget to send us a message if you spot them showing off their mathematical skills. We would love to hear about it!

**Our Topic: All about me**

Our topic this half term is ‘All about me’. We will be learning about ourselves and what makes us special. We will also learn about others and how important it is to value our differences. We will be learning about the human body and the world around us. We will also look at how to keep ourselves physically and mentally healthy.

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**Home Learning Page**

Each class in school has a Home Learning Page on our website. On this page we will keep you up to date with what the children are learning in class and what you can do to support this further at home, including some handy resources. I also know that often the way we teach things in school is very different to how we learnt as adults when we were in school so I will also create some guides to how I am delivering learning in class in order to help when you are working with your child at home.

Below you will find a timetable showing which members of staff are in the classroom each day this half term.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
| Morning | Miss Martin  Mrs Freeman  Mrs Ruddy | Miss Martin  Mrs Freeman  Mrs Ruddy | Miss Martin  Mrs Freeman  Mrs Ruddy | Miss Martin  Mrs Freeman  Mrs Ruddy | Miss Martin  Mrs Freeman  Mrs Ruddy |
| Afternoon | Miss Martin  Mrs Freeman | Miss Martin  Mrs Freeman | Mrs Ruddy  Mrs Freeman | Miss Martin  Mrs Freeman | Mrs Ruddy  Mrs Freeman |

Mr Whawell will also be in class during the week to deliver a music session to the children initially on a Thursday Morning.

This half term we will be beginning PE sessions on a Tuesday afternoon. Initially once the children have settled in we will focus on taking shoes and socks off and getting into the routines of PE. From Tuesday 6th October we will begin teaching the children how to get changed for PE. There may be occasions where we need to be flexible with our PE sessions so please can you ensure that your child has their PE kit in school all week and we will send it home on a Friday.

**Phonics**

This half term we will be practising our oral blending and segmenting skills and learning our Phase 2 sounds and tricky words. We will begin to learn to read and spell with these sounds. We will be practising the correct formation for each letter we learn and practising reading and writing our names. Please see our home school diary and home learning page for more information.