



Reception

Newsletter Autumn 1, September 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Reception! We hope you and your children had a fantastic summer and are ready for a busy and exciting term!! We are really looking forward to getting to know you all.

The Early years Curriculum



In Reception, many of our themes and activities will be taken from the children's interests. In the first few weeks your child will have the opportunity to settle into their new learning environment, learning the routines and expectations and getting to know the adults who are working alongside them.

Each day, children are exposed to an exciting and varied timetable, which has a careful balance between children exploring and learning independently through play (ChIL Time), and focused activities planned and led by adults. All activities that take place are centered around the children's interests and adults work together to plan accordingly. Throughout the term, we will also be spending some time looking at the changes that occur during Autumn, Harvest, Bonfire Night, Diwali, Hanukkah and the exciting events leading up to Christmas.



LEARNING JOURNEYS

Throughout your child's time in Reception we will be creating an electronic 'Learning Journey' – which evidences your child's experiences and achievements throughout the year.

The learning journeys will be available for you to access from home electronically and we will be holding an information session which will demonstrate how you can do this. Within their learning journeys, we like to include special moments and achievements that happen outside of school and you will be able to input these directly to your child's learning journey from home following the information session. For example, a significant event, the day their first tooth fell out, how they built a tall lego tower, learning to ride their bike etc.

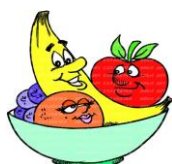
FOREST SCHOOL

In Reception, we have a Forest School session once a week. Forest School provides an excellent chance for the children to explore and experience learning in a different environment. We will go outside in **ALL** weathers including rain, sleet, snow, therefore, your child needs to have appropriate clothing in their bag kept at school at all times. Long sleeves and trousers **MUST** be worn - something that you don't mind getting a bit dirty. Children will also wear their wellies and waterproof trousers and if needed, their coats.



NOTICES and CORRESPONDENCE

Notices will be placed on the window where the children are dropped off and collected. Please keep a check on these as there will be copies of letters that have been sent out electronically and any other information we have to give you. Please hand any correspondence to us in person in a named envelope as book bags are not checked daily.



DRINKS AND SNACK TIME

For snack, we are provided with fruit and vegetables from a government scheme with a drink of milk or water.

LUNCHTIME

At lunchtime, teachers take the children to the lunch hall where they are supported by mid-day Supervisors. While some children are still settling, class teachers will remain with them for reassurance. Please be mindful about how much food your child has in their lunch box as we want them to have time to have a break outside. Just a reminder we are a healthy eating school and a **NO NUTS Zone!** Thank you for your support in this matter.



MEET THE TEACHER and READING MEETING FOR PARENTS AND CARERS



We would like to invite you to a Meet the Teacher session on **Wednesday 18th September 2019 at 2.45pm**, in your child's classroom. This will give you an overview of the teaching and learning in Reception and an opportunity to ask any questions you may have about your child's time with us. We will also be holding a Reading meeting on **Wednesday 16th October 2019 at 2.30pm** in the KS1 hall, which will inform you about how your child learns to read and the teaching of phonics.

INTERNATIONAL DOT DAY

The week commencing **16th September** we will be looking at the book 'The Dot' by Peter Reynolds which encourages children to develop a growth mindset. It is based on a little girl who doesn't think she is good at art but her teacher encourages her to draw a simple dot on a page which is then celebrated and makes her believe she can draw. Throughout the week, we will celebrate 'National Dot Day' through a variety of creative activities based around dots! We hope to inspire creativity in your children and give them ownership of their learning!

Your child will come home with a plain white dot in their book bag which we would like them to decorate at home using dots (please see below for a bit of inspiration, feel free to borrow an idea or generate an idea of your own. All it takes is a little creativity!) Please return their dot by **Thursday 19th September**.

We will open our classrooms to you after School on **Friday 20th September** (3.10-3.30pm) for your children to show you what marvellous creations we make!



Parent and Child Autumn Walk to Birchanger Woods

Early Years will be going on an autumn walk to the local woodlands on **Monday 21st October** at 9.15am. We will be looking for signs of autumn and creating some natural art / sculptures. In order for this to go ahead we need as many parents and carers to attend as possible. If you are able to support us with our walk, please let your class teacher know or a sign-up sheet will be available at the 'Meet the teacher meeting'. We hope you will be able to join us!

Reminders

- Please ensure all uniform and spare clothing are clearly named (if it comes off, it needs a name!)
- Doors open and Funky Finger learning starts at 8.50am, if you arrive after 9.05am, please take your child to the main office to be registered.
- If your child is being collected by a different person from the usual arrangements, please ensure you let your child's class teacher know.
- Please ensure your child has wellies and waterproof trousers and coats in school for Forest School

Finally, the most important thing is that your child is happy at school and has fun while they are learning. Please do not hesitate to come and see us if you have any concerns.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Bugg and Miss Woodhouse



Dates for your diary!

- **Wednesday 18th September** - 'Meet the Teacher Meeting' in the classroom 2.45pm
- **Friday 20th September** 'International Dot day' - Parents and Carers welcome in class after school 3.10-3.30pm.

- **Wednesday 16th October** Reading Meeting in the Infant Hall 2.30pm

- **Monday 21st October** Parent and Child Autumn Walk to Birchanger Woods at 9.15am.

How to help your child at home:

- Reading a variety of books to your child.
- Retelling familiar stories in their own words or using the pictures in a book. Can they change the ending?
- Practising oral blending in games such as 'I Spy' (I spy a.. c-a-t/z-i-p).
- Hiding phonemes/words/alphabet/numbers around the house.
- Counting to 10 forwards and backwards and finding one more or one less to 10.
- Singing number rhymes such as Five Currant Buns, Five Little Men in a Flying Saucer, Ten Green Bottles.
- Tracing their name/letters/numbers in a variety of materials e.g. bubbles, sugar, mud, shaving foam, cornflour and water.
- Cutting and sticking pictures from magazines and newspapers to make their own picture.
- Cooking
- Gardening and growing

Useful Websites

www.oxfordowl.co.uk

www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies

<http://www.letters-and-sounds.com>

<http://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/freelIndex.htm>

<http://www.teachyourmonstertoread.com>

<http://www.crickweb.co.uk/Early-Years.html>

Useful Apps

Hairy letters

abc PocketPhonics

Phonics Lilies

Forest Phonics

Number Line

Ladybird Maths

Hungry Fish

Math, Age 3-5 and Age 4-6

Tap A Tune

Bee-Bot

Monster Hunt (Memory game)