



# Reception News September 2016

Welcome to all the Reception children and their parents. We hope that you had a super summer break. This newsletter contains a summary of some of the lovely things your child can look forward to doing this half term. We will share more details every Friday in your child's **Communication Diary** each week. We really encourage you to write any message for school in here.

There will be a short parents' meeting about phonics and your children's learning journeys on **Monday 12<sup>th</sup> September, 3.15-3.45pm** in the main school hall. Please try to attend this as it will cover important information about your child's learning and how you can support them at home. A crèche will be provided in our Nursery for children as part of this.

At the beginning of this term we will take the opportunity to get to know each child individually, to find out about their strengths and how we can help them make progress. Our topics are 'All About Me' and 'Harvest'. We would love any baby photos or family photos to add to our Role play Areas! Later in the term, we will then be joining with the whole school topic, 'Tiaras, Turrets and Tournaments'!

## 'Wow' Moments

If you are impressed with any developmental steps your child has taken outside of school we would love to hear about them! Please note them on a 'Wow moment slip' and return them to your child's teacher. It may be something such as, 'They can now get changed on their own.'

## Clothing

We love to explore outside in all weathers. Please make sure your child brings a coat to school every day. In warm weather they need a sun hat and must wear sun cream. You may leave a pair of wellies at school. Please name all items of clothing to help us return clothing to the right child! PE kits should come into school on a Monday and will be sent home on a Friday.

## Water Bottles and Snack

Every day the children enjoy 'Snack Time' together. Each child is offered a cup of milk or water and an item of fruit or a vegetable. If your child is a fussy eater you may bring an alternative portion of fruit/veg/salad in their bag. Your child may bring a water bottle to school to keep in the classroom for water only as we have 'Healthy Schools' status.

## Home Learning

Lots of research shows that children who are supported at home with their learning thrive in school. We would love you to share stories at home and complete simple maths activities at least 4 times a week so your child can receive a 'Read for a star' stamp and 'Marvellous Maths' stamp to collect towards certificates. Please log these in your child's **School Diary**.

### **Our Curriculum: Communication and Language (C&L)**

We will be practising concentrating on an activity, sitting quietly, responding to two part instructions, expanding vocabulary and using our imagination to pretend. We will also encourage children to express themselves clearly to other friends and adults.

### **Our Curriculum: Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSED)**

In PSED we will be helping children build confidence by encouraging them to initiate conversations, listen to others, begin to solve conflicts, talk about themselves, follow our 'Golden Rules' and participate in school routines.

### **Our Curriculum: Physical Development (PD)**

This term in PE we will be moving around in different ways, jumping off and landing and negotiating space. In the classroom we will use different tools, practise our fine motor control (eg, using a pen/paintbrush with care) and understand about the importance of exercise, healthy eating, sleep and hygiene.

### **Our Curriculum: Literacy (L)**

Through our fun phonics programme we will learn about the link between sounds and letters, write the alphabet, and break down words into smaller sounds ready for spelling. In topic lessons we will learn new vocabulary and use computers to find out information. Every day we will share stories together.

### **Our Curriculum: Maths (M)**

This term we will work on the following foundational skills: recognise numbers, count objects, compare groups of objects (more/fewer), create and solve mathematical problem, name shapes, use positional language (on top, next to, underneath), order items by length and order familiar events.

### **Our Curriculum: Understanding the World (UTW)**

Talk about family customs and routines, learn about other families and cultures, use age appropriate ICT, look closely at similarities and differences.

### **Our Curriculum: Expressive Art and Design (EAD)**

Experiment with instruments, explore mixing colours, manipulate materials to achieve effect, adapt work, create simple representations of events, people and objects, introduce a storyline or narrative into play.



# Growth Mindset

Over the next few weeks we will be introducing eight fictional characters to help the children foster a 'passion for learning': Percy Perseverance, Kate Curiosity, Helen Have-a-go, Timmy Teamwork, Ronnie Reflection, Charlie Challenge, Connor Concentration and Immy Imagination. When they display one of the eight characteristics independently we praise their achievement. This is to encourage children to have a 'Growth Mindset' which creates a love of learning and a resilience that is essential for great accomplishment.

## Junk Modelling

In Reception we love to make models. We would welcome any clean, small boxes/containers. Please do not send in medicine boxes, egg boxes or toilet rolls.

## Illness

Finally, in the unfortunate event of your child catching a sickness or diarrhoea bug, please keep them at home for 48 hours following the last vomiting/loose bowel movement incident in order to prevent illness spreading.

If you have any questions or queries please ask a member of staff.

Many thanks,

Queen's Hill Early Years Team