

## A few reminders....

**Times** - We open our doors at 8.40am for the start of the school day. The door will be shut at 8.50am. School finishes at 3.05pm. Please arrive and collect your child on time.

Any children arriving late must enter through the main school entrance. Children collected late will be monitored and parents may be charged for child care. If someone else will be collecting your child please inform staff beforehand.

**Uniform** - Please ensure your child's clothes have their name on, we encourage independence and children will be taking off their own jumpers and shoes/wellies throughout the day.

**Library** - Your child will receive a library book pack to take home for you to enjoy and share at home. You will receive the pack on a **MONDAY** and return on **FRIDAY**

**Reading** - We can't stress the importance of daily reading with your child. **Remember to try and read as many times as possible during the week and make sure you record your reads in your school diary! Please bring reading folders to school every day.**

**Handwriting** - Your child will be learning to write using cursive handwriting. We will be happy to send home another copy of the alphabet so you can help them to practise writing the letters at home.

**Phonics** - For the correct pronunciation of the letter sounds, there is a useful video on the school website.

**P.E.** - Your child will take part in Physical Education lessons in the school gym every other Thursday. On these days, please send your child in with trainers and remove any earrings. Their PE kit will be provided by school and will stay in school. Please support your child to dress and undress themselves independently at home so getting ready for PE is less challenging.

**Learning Journal Files** - These are kept in your child's classroom and are available for you to look at and comment on. We value all contributions you make to your child's learning and welcome any comments/examples you may have.



**Happy New Year!  
From all the Reception Staff**

We are pleased that the children have had a lovely Christmas holiday and have returned back to school eager to learn. As always, it will be another busy term in school.

This term our topics are Seasonal Change - Winter and then we will look at Traditional Tales by asking the question 'Do all traditional tales live happily ever after?' We will also continue to follow the children's interests, to extend and challenge their learning. In addition, the children will be developing their strength, balance and flexibility through gymnastics, which we will do every other week and Spanish will be taught by Jess.

We are still keen to find out about your children's interests and learning at home. It is important that any homework sent home is completed with your child, so that we can best plan their next steps. Reading Folders need to come to school each day and we can't stress enough the importance of reading at home.

Miss Bond  
Mrs Maughan  
Miss Blair

## Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum

We will begin with our topic with **Winter and Spring**. This will stimulate children's curiosity, knowledge and imagination about the winter season and hopefully we will get to see some more snow.

This will be followed by our enquiry based learning project entitled "Do all traditional tales live happily ever after?" We will read a range of different traditional stories and discuss whether each one had a happy ending.

Brown Bears will be visiting the library on **Friday 20th March** and Polar Bears will go on **Monday 16th March**

The areas of the curriculum are below.

### Personal, Social and Emotional Development

This area covers being interested and eager to learn, enjoying school, working independently, keeping safe, behaving well and building relationships with other children and adults.

### Communication and Language

We will be working on listening and attention skills, speaking skills and understanding spoken instructions, stories and questions. In addition we will be developing children vocabulary and encouraging its use.

### Physical Development

All areas of the children's physical development are important—their large physical movements and being able to manipulate and use small objects, including using pencils for writing.

### Literacy

It is crucial for children to develop a life-long love of reading. Through traditional tales we will read and retell a large range of traditional tales and using story language to make up and act out own fairy-tale stories .

### Mathematics—**KIRF (Key Instant Recall Facts)**

We will be developing a strong grounding in number is essential so that all children develop the necessary building blocks to do well in maths. Our focus will be to compare two numbers and say which is more or less and then say one more/less to a given number up to 10.

### Understanding the World

We will help the children to make sense of different cultures, communities and traditions and develop their understanding of our local environment

### Expressive Arts and Design

Working with paint, glue, musical instruments, movement and imaginative play all help the children to create from their experiences.

## How could you help learning and development at home ?

- Read stories daily to your child and use them as an opportunity to talk about the characters and events in the story. You could also discuss some of the details children have spotted in the pictures, such as the character's facial expressions.
- Have lots of conversations with your child throughout the day. Try and increase their vocabulary by using a wide range of vocabulary.
- Practise counting with your child and looking at small groups of items. Explore what happens to numbers when you put these small groups of items together, or split a larger group into two smaller groups.
- Support your child's early reading by practising phonic skills, such as recognising letter sounds and blending them together to read words. Also, support your child with their writing by checking they are forming their letters in the correct way and holding a pencil properly- refer to the letter guide sheet .
- Encourage your child to make healthy food and drink choices, especially related to sugar content and how this can affect teeth. Also, support your child to properly brush their teeth at least twice a day at home.
- Plan activities that allow your child to be active and develop their strength through large body movements as well as smaller, more precise movements.

