



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Reception! We hope you and your children had a good 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. We will begin with an over-arching topic of 'All About Me' focussed on settling the children in to their new classes and finding out and exploring their likes, dislikes, families and homes.

Each day, children are exposed to an exciting and varied timetable, which has a careful balance between children exploring and learning independently through play, and focused activities planned and led by adults. All activities that take place are centered on the children's interests and adults work together to plan accordingly. Towards the end of Reception, the balance will shift towards more activities led by adults, to help children prepare for more formal learning, ready for Year 1. We will, of course, be spending some time looking at the changes that occur during Autumn and also Fireworks, Diwali and the exciting events leading up to Christmas. Please see the attached sheet for some of the things we will be learning about this half term.



LEARNING JOURNEYS

Throughout your child's time in Reception we will be putting together a 'Learning Journey' - a book to show their experiences and achievements through the year. On occasions, there may be photos of your child interacting with other children. If there is any reason you do not want to have your child's photo in another child's Learning Journey, please let us know.

Within their learning journeys, we would love to include special moments and achievements that happen outside of school. We will send home some 'Wow' templates for these occasions. These 'Wow' templates can tell us about anything of interest that you'd like to share with us. For example, your child's favourite bedtime story, the day their first tooth fell out, how they built a tall lego tower, and many more! There will also be opportunities for you to inform us about your holidays on our 'Magic Moments' sheets that we will send home every half term. ☺

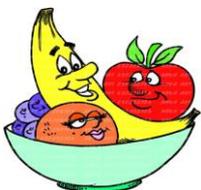
PE and FOREST SCHOOL

In Reception, there will be no set PE times as we have a flexible and very active timetable, ensuring the children get plenty of physical activity. We are, however, planning on having 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 etc. so 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 that have kindly been supplied by you, and if needed, their coats.



NOTICES and CORRESPONDENCE

Notices will be placed on the window where the children are collected. Please keep a check on these as there will be copies of letters that have been sent out 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 necessarily 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. If you would like your child to have milk, it must be ordered online at least a week beforehand. Please note, this is free for children up until the age of five and then must be paid for. As we have a child in Reception with a severe dairy allergy this year, we ask that you be vigilant and inform us if any milk, yogurt or other dairy products are spilt on your child's uniform before coming to school, and where possible change the item of clothing.

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. We were very impressed at how sensibly and maturely the children handling their first few days of school lunch! 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. Thank you for your support in this matter.



OUR CLASS TEDDIES

In each class, we are going to have a 'Star of the Week' who will be chosen every Friday. The star of the week will have the special job of looking after our class teddy over the weekend! It would be wonderful if you could support your child in filling out a diary entry, this could be a picture or two of their adventures, or a brief explanation of where they have been. Please feel welcome to email us pictures if you do not have the facilities to print them at home (admin@summercroft.herts.sch.uk).

WELCOME WEDNESDAYS

Every first Wednesday of the month from 3.10pm until 3.30pm, we will welcome parents and carers into the classroom. This is a friendly and informal opportunity for you to come and explore your child's learning and chat with other parents or class Teachers. This will start on Wednesday 5th October and continue monthly from then onwards.

Should you want to discuss anything further, please arrange a separate time to see your child's class teacher before or after school.



MEET THE TEACHER and READING MEETING

We would like to invite you to a Meet the Teacher session on Tuesday 20th September at 2.00pm, in the Infant Hall. This will give you an overview of the teaching and learning in Reception and the opportunity to ask any questions you may have about your child's time with us. For the first couple of weeks we will be focussing on settling the children and will begin the teaching of Phonics and reading when we feel the children are ready.

INTERNATIONAL DOT DAY

Next week 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. On Friday 16th September 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!

Today, your child has come home with a plain white dot in their book bag which they are 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 15th September**. We will open our classrooms to you after School on Friday 16th September (3.10-3.30pm) for your children to show you what marvellous creations we make!

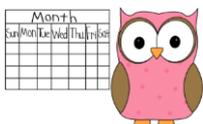


Finally, the most important thing is that your child is happy at school and has fun while they are learning. Please do not hesitate to come and see us if you have any concerns. After school is probably the best time to do this. Many thanks.

Yours sincerely

Miss Cheer and Miss MacKinnon ☺

Dates for your diary!



- Friday 16th September

We will celebrate 'International Dot day'. Parents and Carers welcome in class after School 3.10-3.30pm.

- Tuesday 20th September

'Meet the Teacher and Reading Meeting' in the Infant Hall, 2.00pm.

Welcome Wednesdays

- Wednesday 5th October
 - Wednesday 2nd November
 - Wednesday 7th December
- (3.10pm – 3.30pm)

Parents and Carers welcome in the classroom between 3.10pm and 3.30pm every first Wednesday of the month (starting from Wednesday 5th October)

- Wednesday 19th October 2.30pm – 3.05pm or 4.00pm – 4.30pm

Learning Journey Sharing – you will have you an opportunity to have a look at your child's learning journey and any other work they have done so far in Reception. More details will follow nearer the time.

How to help your child at home:

- Reading a variety of books with 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 20 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.

Useful Websites

www.oxfordowl.co.uk

<http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/>

www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies

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

<http://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/freeIndex.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)

*There are also several free read-along books such as 'Toy Story Read Along' or 'Collins Big Cat'.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Managing feelings and behaviour

Adjusting to new school routines.
Learning the golden rules.
Discuss different feelings and how ourselves and others show emotions.

Making relationships

Getting to know each other.
How to be a good friend and fill someone's bucket, (Have You Filled a Bucket Today by Carol McCloud).

Communication, Language and Literacy

Reading

Telling a story with non-worded picture books.
As we begin to learn Phonics, focus on blending the sounds for reading i.e. s-a-t → sat.

Writing

Tracing and writing our own name in a variety of ways.
Labelling parts of our bodies.

Speaking and Listening

Talk about ourselves, families and our homes and look at how they might be different from others.

Physical Development

Moving and Handling

Developing our fine motor skills (to help our pencil grip) – threading beads to create a pattern, pencil control, name tracing, finger print painting, mark making in a variety of materials., cutting pictures, playdough faces.

Health and self-care

Learning how to stay fit and healthy through healthy eating and exercise.
Body part poem 'All of me'.



All About Me – Autumn 1, 2016

Understanding the World

People and Communities

Getting to know our new learning environment.
Looking at where we live - our homes and local area,

The World

Explore different religions and languages if appropriate.
Looking at our senses and the world around us.

Technology

How to use a mouse effectively.
Begin to program the bee-bots to move forward, backwards, left and right.

Expressive Arts and Design

Exploring and using media and materials:

Using colours for a purpose – painting our faces.
Drawing around each other and building our bodies.
Making houses using recycled materials.

Being Imaginative:

Familiar role play – families, doctors, shops.

Mathematics

Number

Counting one-to-one correspondence.
Recognising and ordering numbers to 10.
Finding one more and one less.

Shape, Space and Measure

Face bingo – positional language.
2D shape sorting, 2D shape pictures.
Data recording – likes and dislikes tally chart, How we travel to School pictogram.