

Reception Class Newsletter Spring 2019

Dear Reception Parents,

This term we will continue to deliver the various areas of the Reception curriculum, offering a mixture of child-initiated and adult-led activities and experiences based on themes. Our first theme is 'Bears', as we are basing our Talk for Writing sessions around the story of 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt'. I will be sending a Home Learning task related to this soon – look out for it in your child's bag! We will also be learning about 'Nocturnal Animals' later in the term, linked to our work on our next Talk for Writing story which will be 'Owl Babies'. Incidentally, if your child has any toys or books about bears and other nocturnal animals they would be prepared to share with the class, please label them clearly and send them in. We will return them at the end of the project.



Our work in **maths** will again include a lot of mental and practical activities with some recording. Our activities will focus on counting, writing and recognising numbers, addition and subtraction and problem solving. The children will be taught at a level appropriate to their individual needs, working with numbers up to 10, 20 and beyond. During the term we shall also look at patterns, 2D and 3D shapes and compare weights and lengths. Games involving counting, spotting numbers and shapes in the world around us, sharing, scoring and so on are brilliant for helping your child's development – so do play them as often as you can! And don't forget Doodle Maths ... every day! It really helps to develop and practise essential skills in a fun and exciting way.

Our work in **English** will focus on developing speaking and listening, reading and writing skills. The children will continue to practise recognising and writing letters and sounds in daily phonics and Kinetic Letters sessions. They will also be blending sounds to aid the reading of unknown words and saying sounds in words so that they can spell them. The children will be given lots of opportunities for writing. You can help your child by encouraging them to read their reading book regularly and to practise the words on flashcards in their wallets. Some can be sounded out but others are 'tricky' and cannot. These just need lots of practise to learn the word on sight. It is already very evident whether children are practising at home as progress in reading is much faster with more practise! Please sign and write comments in their reading record every time you hear them read. This then indicates to us that they need to have their book changed. We do this once each week after we have heard their group read. It really helps us if you ensure that their book folder is in their bag every day as we may hear them read on different days. We are also running our 'lending library' to share our beautiful picture books – please encourage your child to share this with you and then change it whenever they wish.



Our **P.E.** day is on Friday. We appreciate you encouraging the children to dress and undress themselves at home, as they are almost all able to do this independently now! Girls must have long hair tied up and remove ear rings on these days. We are also encouraging the children to fasten up their own coats whenever possible – many are already able to do this, which is brilliant! Incidentally, please can you make sure clothes are named, especially **ties, jumpers, coats, hats, scarves and gloves!** Thank you!



Learning Journeys

We will continue to monitor the achievements of the children and to address areas for improvement by using the Foundation Stage Profile. As you know, we are using the iPads and the 'Target Tracker' app to create Electronic Learning Journeys for every child. We will be sending a copy out to you later in the term. We also love to receive news, pictures and things of interest from home and always share them with the class. If you would like to e-mail us at school (perhaps with a photo) my address is dtilley@ridge.dudley.sch.uk. Please note that I open these e-mails on the class whiteboard with the children unless marked otherwise.

I would also love to receive photos of the children sharing a book with someone at home to display in our Book Corner. If you e-mail them we will print them. Thank you!

Family Learning this term is on Wednesday 23rd January. We look forward to welcoming you into the classroom! You are welcome to join us between 9.00 and 10.45. This will enable you to join in our learning including with Phonics and Kinetic Letters sessions.

Please complete the slip below to give us an idea of how many parents to expect. Remember grandparents are welcome for those children with working parents!



A Gentle Reminder

All children should have a named water bottle which they can access in the classroom at any time. They must contain only 'plain' (not flavoured) water. Our experience shows that water bottles can sometimes leak, so can they please not be put into book bags.

Thank you for all of your continued support. We hope you find this newsletter helpful and if you have any queries at any time, please do not hesitate to come and see us.

Yours sincerely
Debbie Tilley & Karen Mangan.

Reception's Family Learning Morning: Wed 23rd January 2019

Child's Name:

Someone from our family will be attending (please tick)