

# Reception News

We would like to say a very warm welcome to all of our families, whether you're new to the school or are returning to Reception for a second or third time. It was lovely to meet you all on your individual visits and 'stay and play' sessions. The time that we spent with you and your children has really helped them to settle quickly. Even the children who have the odd wobble first thing in the morning have been settled by the time they've hung their coats up. The children have been working hard to learn our routines and they're all now putting their things away and sitting down for the register calmly, ready to start their day. They're still learning how things work in school and how we learn by playing and having fun but have been doing great listening and are very keen to work hard. I'm sure they're all very tired by bedtime!

## **This week we are learning:**

**Phonics** – we are focusing on phase 1 phonics which helps the children to distinguish between sounds in the environment such as counting how many claps or being able to tell the difference between a car and a helicopter sound. We are also doing lots of rhyming, reminding children that for words to rhyme they need to end with the same group of sounds. We will be starting phase 2 next week and will start introducing sounds.

**Maths** – we are learning about the number 1. We have been exploring some of our maths resources inside and learning how to use the natural environment to help us with counting and recognising numbers. We've also been learning about circles because circles have one side that goes all the way around.

**Jigsaw** – we are learning about us. We are all still learning each others names and are finding out what we like and dislike.

**Music** – this half term we will be singing lots of nursery rhymes. Nursery rhymes are really important to support language and communication skills, build confidence and prepare children for reading and writing. This week we are singing 'Head Shoulders Knees and Toes' and 'My Body Song'.

**Other** – we found a map and a letter from someone called Max who has been to a land where there are creatures called Wild Things. We are looking at treasure maps, maps of our school, our village and the world.

## **Reminders**

- **Uniform** – please remember that uniform in Reception is different to the rest of the school. Because of our active curriculum, we wear trousers or leggings all year with our white polo shirts and green sweatshirts. Skirts and dresses are not worn in Reception.
- **Jewellery** – this is not permitted in Reception. This includes earrings, watches, bracelets, necklaces etc. This is for the safety of all children. We spend a lot of time outside, climbing trees in the woods etc. Jewellery can get snagged on branches and/or scratch other children, not to mention the fact that they will most likely be a distraction to your child and/or other children and will most likely get lost. We have noticed that there are quite a few children wearing earrings. **Earrings should be removed before school.** If they cannot be removed, please cover them with tape. If children come to school wearing earrings and they are not taped, we will cover the earrings with micropore tape during the day. Obviously, most children would prefer you to do this

at home and it would certainly save us time in the mornings when we are busy trying to settle the children.

- If your child brings a packed lunch, please make sure that their lunchbox is labelled **on the outside** and that containers inside the lunchbox are also labelled. Children should have a drink *in* their lunchbox in addition to the water bottle that we keep in the classrooms. Some of the children do seem to have a lot of food in their lunchboxes and are trying hard to eat all of it. They have more than 30 minutes to eat lunch. If your child is regularly coming home with uneaten food, perhaps give them a little bit less. Young children can be overwhelmed by a lot of food, making it difficult for them to finish it.
- Hot lunches start next week. Please check which days you have signed up for and make sure you send a packed lunch on any days that your child is not having hot lunch. It's also helpful if you let your child know that they are having a hot lunch and what they're having so it doesn't come as a surprise to them. We do stay in the lunch hall with the children for the first 15 minutes or so. We will let you know if your child is not eating their lunch. We do try to encourage the children to try everything and will always find something that they will eat. As well as the meal that you choose, the children can also choose a bread roll and/or salad vegetables so there's always something that they like.
- Now that the weather is colder, could you please practice putting on coats and doing zips or buttons? A lot of the children are able to do this but it would help us to get outside faster if everybody was able to do their coats up independently. Please also ensure that your child's coat is warm enough. It has been really cold in the woodland in the mornings and some of the children have felt quite chilly. Some of the children are also complaining of cold hands so it may be worth putting a pair of gloves in their coat pockets (named, of course).
- When dropping children off and picking up in the afternoons, could we please ask you to leave as quickly as possible so we are able to lock the gate promptly. This is for the safety of all children during the day and children staying for after school clubs or tea time club after school. We know that you all want to watch the children through the windows but it can be quite distressing for children who are upset. We promise we will take good care of your child and if they are upset we will comfort them and will let you know if they haven't settled within a few minutes.
- Could you also please remind children, including siblings, that they are not permitted to use our climbing frames or other equipment/toys before or after school. These are only to be used when a member of staff is present. We will be reminding the children in school too.
- We will be sending our class bears home with 2 children from each class on Friday. Each bear has a diary so the children can draw and eventually write about something that they did over the weekend. Please do not feel that you need to do anything special with the bears. They love going to the park, playing games and having cuddles at story time.
- You should have had a letter this week about our Reception parents meeting next Friday (3<sup>rd</sup> October) at 9.15am. This meeting will be in the school hall. We will talk about what we teach in school, how we teach it and what you can do at home to support your child. We will have a brief demonstration of Bug Club Phonics as we will be starting to allocate games at the end of next week. If you are unable to make the meeting we will put the Powerpoint on the class pages on our website along with video tutorials about Bug Club.
- Please come and talk to us if you have any questions or concerns. We're always happy to answer your questions. It's usually easier for us to talk after afternoon pick-up as mornings can be busy with getting the children in and settling them. You can also email any questions through the office.