

Grove Road Primary School



Dear Reception Parents,

11th September 2019

We are delighted to welcome you to a brand new term! The children are settling into their new classes really well. We have a busy and exciting term planned and so you may find it helpful to re-read the induction information that you were given in July. Please ask us if you would like another copy.

Each half term we will send out a curriculum newsletter giving you details of what we will be talking and learning about. However, do come and see us if you want to find out more. Details will follow shortly regarding "Building Blocks" which will be sessions run to provide parents with practical and useful information about life in Reception.

The details below are a brief outline to give you a flavour of what will be happening and how the curriculum in Reception is organised into key curriculum areas and what is included.

CL&L (Communication, Language & Literacy)	Learn to recognise and write letters and sounds, as well as reading simple words and some 'tricky' words'. We will be encouraging the children to form letters correctly using a 'lead in' to prepare them for cursive handwriting further up the school. Please see the formation rhymes attached. We will also be focusing on making sure they can all write their name. This is in addition to the many and varied free writing opportunities that they will all be encouraged to explore.
M (Mathematics)	In Maths we will be focusing on recognising, counting, ordering, writing, and using numbers. For most children, they will be focusing on numbers to 10, for others they may well go beyond. In addition to number recognition, the children will also be exploring shapes, space and measure, as well as problem solving and calculations through play and taught sessions.
UW (Understanding of the world)	We will be learning about ourselves and our family while we settle into school. We will also learn about Harvest and Autumn. This area of the Early Years Curriculum also incorporates exploring electronic equipment and computers.
EAD (Expressive art and design)	This is the area of the curriculum that encourages the children to explore and develop their skills in making, constructing and creating. As well as individual projects we also encourage children to play and problem solve collaboratively. Much is done through play and free exploration.
PD (Physical Development)	The children have weekly sessions of PE in addition to the opportunities to develop their co-ordination and gross motor skills through play. In PE the children have the opportunity to use the games equipment (bean bags, quoits, balls etc.) as well as sessions for dance and parachute games. Your child will also take part in a yoga session once every two weeks. From the start we encourage and support the children to change independently.
PSED (Personal, Social & Emotional Development)	At this age, the children are learning all sorts of communication and collaboration skills, playing more readily with each other as well as playing along-side others. Learning to listen to and follow instructions, taking part in daily routines, such as snack time, are all important aspects of their social development.

Special Box:

One child will be selected each week to bring in a selection of items and explain why they are special to them to the rest of the class. These items will then be put on display in the classroom for one week. A book will be sent home with this child to record what their special items are and why they are so important to them. This will be sent home on a Friday and should be returned on a Monday morning.

This experience enables the child to develop their confidence to speak and listen to others, and ask appropriate questions. It also encourages a sense of responsibility and respect for other people's property and their own. During this week, the chosen child will have the opportunity to invite a member of their family in to read a story to the rest of the class. Please talk to your child's class teacher to arrange a suitable time. This will begin on Friday 13th September.

Home Learning

We have decided not to send out weekly home learning tasks until the children are more settled. However, we know that some of you will be keen to help at home. So for this term we are sending home some ideas for optional activities that will support number and reading skills which are listed below.

Recognising Numbers:

Use the number cards included with this letter for some of the activities listed below (Start with 0-10 and then progress to 0-20). Cut up the cards into individual number cards and ask your child to:

- Mix them up and then arrange them in order from left to right or bottom to top. (lowest to highest, highest to lowest)
- Make a matching set and play snap
- Pick a number and give your child a clue as to which number you have Eg. My number is more than 3, My number is the number that comes after 9.
- Choose a number and ask your child to count out the right number of objects (lego bricks, pasta shapes, grapes)

Recognising Phase 2 sounds

Use the sound cards to try some of the following optional activities. Start with just 1 or 2 sounds and introduce more sounds when you are ready.

- Use the cards as flash cards as practice saying the sounds.
- Make a matching set and play snap.
- Show a sound card and think of something that begins with that sound.
- Show a sound card and find objects beginning with this sound.
- Make simple words with the sounds that you know eg. sat, at, cat, pin and nip.

Here is a useful link which will help you to say the sounds as they are taught in school.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lwJx1NSineE>

Reading

Children are welcome to choose a library book from our foyer to share at home with you. They may change their library book as often as they wish. We will be starting a Reading Diary as a way of recording your child's book sharing journey both in and out of school. We are asking parents/carers to record library books children bring home and any relevant comments.

After phonics assessments are completed, we will start to send out books from our reading scheme. All children will have a book by Friday the 27th September. Only one book will be sent home each week and this will be changed on a Friday. As part of our phonics sessions, children will have the opportunity to read daily.

Ways you can help your child's reading at home:

- Choose a suitable time and place to read without too many distractions.
- Before you start reading, talk about what the book could be about – look at the title and pictures and link to children's own experiences e.g. 'can you remember when we went to the beach?'
- For library books – enjoy reading this to your child and talk about the story and pictures as you go along. If your child wishes to tell the story please allow them to do so.
- Talking about books is as important as helping your child read, as it helps them to understand what they are reading.

Please note that there is an expectation that children will experience a wide range of books at home. Hearing stories read to them is as important to their literacy development as learning to read with the reading scheme.

'Wow moments'

We are sending you some 'wow moment' sheets for you to record something your child has said or done at home to evidence their learning or pride in their achievements. Please feel free to complete and return to your child's class teacher, for them to include in the Learning Journey folder. Further copies are available from a wallet kept in the entrance to the Reception classrooms. Please ask if you cannot find them. Should you wish to include a small photograph, please send it in with the 'wow moment' sheet.

Outdoor Learning

As part of the outdoor curriculum, your child will be participating fortnightly in an outdoor educational session in which children visit natural spaces on site to learn personal, social and technical skills. These hands-on learning experiences will take place all year round. All children will need:

- Waterproofs (trousers, raincoat, overalls)
- A set of well used and comfortable clothes (leggings, tracksuit bottoms, hooded jumper)
- Wellies or walking boots

You will be informed of your child's designated slot by Friday 13th September. Outdoor learning will commence the week beginning Monday 23rd September.

Busy Fingers

We would like to invite you to join us every Monday (starting Monday 23rd September) for Busy Fingers in your child's class. Please join your child from 8:30am until 8:50 every Monday morning, to give you a chance to spend time with your child in class in order to get a glimpse of their learning experiences.

Useful Reminders:

- Please make sure the children bring their book bags and reading diaries into school every day. You are free to access our school library in the foyer area on a daily basis and will need to record the titles of these books and any comments in your child's diary. Your child will also receive a 'reading' book once a week which will be changed on a Friday. This will give you time to share the book with your child and explore some of the questions on the sheet provided.
- Please make sure all items of uniform and personal belongings are named (including shoes). This helps your child as well as the staff. 60 pairs of black shoes all look very similar!
- Please remember to send your child in with a pair of shoes or trainers or wellies they can wear for outside play. Please bear in mind that these can sometimes get muddy. They will be wearing their smart black school shoes as their indoor shoes. Please be aware that your child will not be able to access the digging area without wearing wellies.
- Your child will also need a named bottle of water in school every day.
- Please hand party invitations and thank you notes to parents before or after school.
- **Please may we ask that before and after school, your child does not access and play with the school's equipment in the outdoor area.**

Reception can appear to be a mass of systems and routines to remember, especially for those of you who are new to the school. If there is anything you do not understand please come and ask us.

Thank you for your support and partnership. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any concerns or queries.

The Reception Team

Teachers: Mrs Bowen, Mrs Taylor, Mrs Elvery (Wednesday am) Mrs Glass (Friday)

Teaching assistants: Mrs Whelan, Mrs Jones, Mrs Hoolihan, Mrs Lindars