



Reception Newsletter

September 2024

Our Theme for this half term is:

"Amazing Me"



Welcome to Reception I hope you have all had a good summer and are ready for the busy term ahead. It is always exciting greeting the new class and welcoming them into full time school. I understand this is a big step for you and the children, so I want to make this a smooth and happy transition. If you have any worries or concerns please email me on reception@otleyallsaints.co.uk straight away, no matter how small, and I am sure we can sort these worries out. We are working together to provide your children with an exciting and stimulating year of learning and fascination. The children will continue to have lots of opportunities to develop their own interests within their play and we will listen to what they enjoy. The first half term is based around settling into school, themselves, their families and being part of the school family under the umbrella **Amazing Me**. Here are some of the enhancements we will be adding to provision to stimulate and guide their learning.

Personal Social and Emotional Development

- Settling into school and learning school routines.
- Discussing what makes our classroom a happy place to learn and how rules help to keep us safe.
- Discussing feelings and what makes us feel happy, sad, angry etc. We will be focussing on the story of the Colour Monster for this and how we can manage those feelings
- Talking about what makes us amazing.
- What is a family and how we belong to the school family.
- Managing basic hygiene, going to the toilet and the importance of washing our hands.

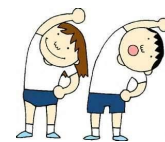
Communication and Language

- Reading stories about what makes us amazing and special, re-telling them using props and role play.
- **"Time to Talk"** this happens on a rota basis. This half term we will be focusing on the All About Me Bags and photos of our families, these will be given out this week. The children will get the opportunity to talk about the items in their bag to the rest of the class.



Physical Development

- What amazing talents have you got.....on the climbing frame, on the climbing apparatus, in the trees, in the movement area?
- Spatial awareness and finding a space in the hall.
- Moving in different directions and at different speeds and levels.
- Children will come to school in PE kits on PE days.
- PE days will be Tuesday and Friday. PE kits to be worn all day.



Literacy

The children will have lots of opportunities to mark make, write and read in all areas of provision.

- We will encourage the children to write their name with the correct letter formation.
- Writing lists and letters to their friends and families
- Writing speech bubbles for feelings and emotions. We will have a big focus on books such as:

The Colour Monster, It's Good to be Me, What Makes Me, Me?, poems about Amazing Me and nonfiction books about keeping healthy.



Phonics.

Rocket Phonics is our fun and exciting phonics scheme. We will be reading about the adventures of Nip and Nap and learning new sounds along the way. The children will be involved in a phonics session every day and these will start later in September.

- We will be recapping hearing sounds and playing games involving listening, copying and rhyming.
- The children will learn the first set of letter sounds, **s a t i p n m d g o c k**.
- Saying the sounds in response to the letter and blending them to read the word.
- Hearing the sounds they hear in words and segmenting the sounds to spell the word.
- We will be working hard to support the children in writing these letters with the correct letter formation.

Maths

- We will be recapping numbers up to 5 playing games finding one more and one less and doubling and halving.
- Finding all the different ways of making the individual numbers and knowing what order the numbers come in, what comes before a number and what comes after.
- Recognising and creating patterns. Noticing patterns around the provision both inside and out.
- Recognising 2d shapes and building with 3d shapes.



Understanding the World

- Thinking about how amazing we all are and what keeps us healthy.
- Talking about how we can look after our teeth.
- Exploring the natural world around them, talking about what they see, hear and feel.



Expressive Arts and Design

- Exploring and mixing colours when painting pictures for our class Art Gallery.
- Home corner- writing notes, lists and letters, taking phone messages, writing their name and labels for models they have made.
- Creating a home for their Mini- Me to play in.
- Self-portraits looking in mirrors and drawing themselves.
- Transient art: using a range of loose parts to create pictures of themselves and different feelings and emotions.



We are a healthy school, so we encourage our children to drink water. Please provide the children with a named water bottle filled with water. These are kept on the trolley in the cloakroom and should be taken home at the end of every day to be washed.

The Reception Staff

Mrs Steele - Monday to Friday

Mrs Johnston - Monday to Friday

Mrs Raybould - Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday mornings

Class Reward Systems

Praise and encouragement are hugely important in Reception. Team points are given out for super tidying, being helpful, good work, perseverance and effort. The children are becoming more familiar with the colour of the team they are in. We also give out stickers for super behaviour and work. If your child comes home wearing a sticker, please encourage them to tell you about it. Our Christian Value this half term is love and we will be giving out special stickers for acts of kindness and what they have done will be recorded in the Class Kindness

Book. Each week, we will choose the 'Star of the Week' and they will be able to choose a small prize from the special prize box.

Baseline Assessment

You may have heard about the statutory Baseline Assessment that all children in Reception classes across the country will be partaking within their first 6 weeks at school. I will be carrying these out in reception but I can assure you that the children will not know they are being assessed, they will just be enjoying some 1:1 time with me where we do a few little activities.

Tapestry

We will continue to use Tapestry to share photographs of the children's learning and any important dates and messages. There will be a weekly update on a Friday, where we will share photographs of what we have been doing during the week. Parents are also invited to contribute to their child's learning journal. We love seeing pictures of what the children have been doing at home and sharing them with the rest of the class!



Class absence and school pick up

If your child is poorly, please can you call the school office to let them know that your child will not be in school, they will pass the message on to us in Reception. We understand that sometimes pick up arrangements can change suddenly. If your child is being picked up by an adult different to the adult who normally picks them up, please can you contact the school office so that they can inform us who is picking your child up at home time.

Parent volunteers

We are thinking about potential school trips to enhance the children's learning. Additional adult support is always needed, especially when the trip is local and a coach is not needed. If you would be able to spare some time and help with a school trip, please can you email me on the reception email.



I am looking forward to a very busy and exciting half term and really getting to know you and your children.

Best wishes,

Mrs Steele