

Reception Newsletter

April 2025



Welcome back! It's our last term in Reception and Mrs Johnston and I can't believe how fast this year has gone! We have a very busy term ahead, and we are looking forward to seeing the children flourish with their learning.

Our topics this term will be We're Going on an Adventure and Big Beasts and Minibeasts. We will be reading a range of nonfiction texts about castles, dinosaurs and insects, along with stories with a dinosaur/minibeast theme.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development



We will continue to build on what we have learnt last term, along with:

- Body bubbles and asking for consent.
- Exploring our whole school rules.
- Our Christian Value this term is Honesty and Respect. We will be focussing on being honest and how this isn't always easy, respecting our planet and the animals that live in it and respecting our friends and family.
- Transition into Year 1.

Communication and Language



- Reading and talking about nonfiction texts about castles, dinosaurs and minibeasts.
- Learning and using new vocabulary within different contexts.
- Re-telling and creating stories about knights, kings and queens, dinosaurs and minibeasts.
- Discussions about what we like about our world.
- Recapping on all the exciting things we have done during our time in Reception.

Physical Development

Gross Motor

- Throwing and catching skills
- Tracking and controlling a ball
- Preparation for Sports Day



Fine Motor

- Weekly Funky Fingers activities based around our topics.
- Weekly letter formation.
- 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.

- Writing a sentence with a capital letter and full stop.
- Correct letter formation.
- Reading lots of nonfiction texts related to our topics.
- Writing a character description.
- Writing for a purpose, creating their own information books.
- Re-telling stories using story maps and roleplay.



Phonics

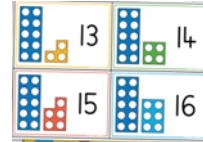
The children will be involved in a phonics session every day.

- The children will learn the next set of letter sounds: or, ar, ur, ow, oi, ear, air, ure, er, wh, ph, ay, a (as ai), e_e (as ee)
- 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

- Learning about and working with numbers above and beyond 10.
- Recapping on learning about doubles and halves.
- Learning about odd and even numbers.
- Building on learning about 3D shapes and names of the shapes: cube, cuboid, sphere, triangular prism, hexagonal prism, cylinders, and triangle and square-based pyramids.
- Building on previous learning about time, measuring length and weight.



Understanding the World

- Continue to explore the natural world, looking at changes and the effects of the weather and the seasons.
- Investigate properties of materials.
- Learning about St. George and exploring knights, kings, queens and castles.
- Explore similarities and differences between life in the past and now.
- Exploring different maps and using these to create their own.
- Looking at the lifecycle of butterflies through nurturing our own in class.



Expressive Arts and Design

- Large and small scale junk modelling- castles, dinosaurs and minibeasts.
- Exploring the properties of a variety of materials and experimenting with colours, shapes and textures.
- Using props and materials when role-playing characters in narratives and stories.
- Small and large-scale weaving.
- Collage using natural materials.
- Simple sewing.



Tapestry

We will continue to use Tapestry to share the children's learning and share photographs of what we have been doing during the week. We love seeing learning at home so please share photos/videos on Tapestry and we will show them to the class.

This term, the staff working in Reception will be:

Mrs Steele - Monday to Friday

Mrs Johnston - Monday to Friday

Mrs Fawcett - Thursday mornings



Mrs Fawcett will continue to cover my PPA and will be in class on Thursday mornings.

Water bottles

We are a healthy school, so we encourage our children to drink water as much as possible. Please provide your child with a named water bottle, filled with water, no juice please. These are kept on the trolley in the cloakroom and should be taken home at the end of every day to be washed.



Reading Books

If your child has a reading book, please can they bring it into school each day. We have volunteers coming into class at least twice a week who will be reading with the children. Guided Reading groups will continue once a week and will be heard by Mrs Johnston or Mrs Steele. The Guided Reading texts are linked to our Rocket phonics scheme. If the books and reading records are in school every day, we can ensure children are reading in school and that books get changed frequently. We can not emphasise enough just how beneficial regular reading is for your child. Regular reading helps children recognise words which leads to greater fluency. We ask that reading books are read at least 3 times before they are changed. Once they have read to you, please sign or write a comment in the reading record books. We do read what you have to say about their reading.



Rocket Books

These need to come into school every Thursday so that we can add new activities linked to our learning in class. The activities will either be maths or phonics with a mix of practical, games or written activities.

It is lovely to see the work that the children have been doing at home to support their phonic learning. When sharing books with your child and reading to them, please encourage them to think of words starting with our weekly sounds, find our tricky words or words in their stories with the sounds they are learning. Thank you.

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. We also give out special stickers for super behaviour and work. Children who show random acts of kindness are also given a special kindness sticker and put in the Kindness Book.



If your child comes home wearing a sticker, please encourage them to tell you about it. Each week, we will choose the 'Star of the Week' and they will be invited to choose a small prize from the special prize box.

Trips and Visits

We are really looking forward to visiting Skipton Castle this week. We will also be doing a dinosaur hunt in Mrs Shutt's garden in the later part of the Summer term. More details will follow later.



Please do not hesitate to contact us either on Tapestry or via the school office if you have any concerns or worries. We can then, if needed, organise a face to face chat.

Here's to a very happy and productive Summer term!

The Reception Team

