

FOUNDATION STAGE - RECEPTION TERM 1 2009/10

Dear Parents

Welcome to Reception! We hope this begins a successful school career for those children who have not yet embarked on the Foundation Stage. Those children moving up from Nursery have been following the Foundation Stage curriculum with enjoyment and success and we shall build on this in Reception. As you are aware, much of the learning at this stage takes place through planned play activities and also activities initiated by the child. We aim to provide a stimulating environment, rich in experiences which will engage and challenge your child.

Themes

Our topic this term is 'Me and My Body', embedding your child's learning in what interests them most....themselves! During the second half of term we shall follow a theme on 'Oman', talking about our likes and dislikes about the environment we live in and finding out more about the features of Oman's landscapes.

There will be one snack break each day but your child may eat in class whenever they feel hungry. Please provide your child with fruit (or vegetables) for this purpose; it is a healthy fortifier and helps the children to be ready to learn; it also supports our healthy eating programme. If fruit requires peeling, please place ready peeled segments into a small named container. Please make sure that your child brings a water bottle each day which can be replenished as required. We have a strict "no nuts" policy in school due to severe allergies of some children.

CURRICULUM

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Opportunities are provided for your child to work alone, and in small and large groups. To be able to learn, your child needs to feel safe and secure and we will be providing a supportive and positive environment for them. We will be working on developing a sense of belonging and encouraging your child to respect themselves and others. Role play is particularly important in developing this area, and we will provide opportunities to learn through e.g. a baby clinic, an optician and leading up to Christmas, a card shop and Santa's workshop. We shall also be developing our awareness of the rich diversity of cultures represented in our school community by learning about festivals of different religions i.e. Eid, Diwali and Christmas.

Communication, Language and Literacy

Communication Language and Literacy development takes place in planned activities for each area of learning, making much use of the role play areas to provide reasons for writing. Your child will be encouraged to communicate their thoughts, ideas and feelings and build relationships with adults and each other. We shall continue to link language with movement using action songs and rhymes, role play and other practical experiences. We shall be introducing the children to letter sounds through Jolly Phonics, which is a fun way to acquire phonetic knowledge. Many opportunities are planned to develop your child's pencil control and to develop their emergent writing skills which, linked with their growing phonic knowledge, will enable them to be confident to write independently. Your child will be exposed to a variety of books. We aim to foster a love of reading and writing. There will be opportunity to read in large and small groups through regular guided reading

sessions. Your child will also have opportunity to read individually. Your child will bring two reading books home on Saturdays and Mondays. We shall be offering a reading workshop for parents to help you help your child learn to read. This will be held after the Meet and Greet meeting.

Mathematical Knowledge and Understanding

We will develop your child's mathematical knowledge and understanding through a variety of practical games and experiences in all areas of the classrooms and outdoors. We will be working with numbers, counting, sorting, and developing the mathematical vocabulary required to compare numbers, describe shapes and use measurement. We shall be developing mathematical concepts appropriate to this age e.g. heavy/light, short/long, full, half full, empty.

Knowledge and Understanding of the World

Our topics will provide the focus for much of your child's learning in this area. We shall be looking at similarities and differences between us, noticing changes from when we were babies to the present time, talking about significant things that have happened and recalling past events. We shall be seeking your help with sending in photographs. We will provide opportunities for your child to use construction kits and plan and design using reclaimed materials. They will have many opportunities to use computers to support their learning within the classroom. They also attend ICT lessons taught by a specialist teacher. Later in the term we shall be learning about bears which will provide further chance to look at similarities and differences between living things and begin to develop research skills to find out about bears.

Physical Development

We will develop your child's physical skills through a range of activities during P.E. lessons, swimming, outdoor play and within the classroom. They will be encouraged to move confidently and creatively, experiment with movement and to develop new skills. Your child will also be encouraged to respond to music through movement. Specialist teachers will teach swimming and P.E. They will have opportunities to use small and large equipment and to manipulate tools with increasing control. Activities in the classroom will be designed to develop fine motor control and gross motor development can take place outdoors.

Creative Development

Your child will be encouraged to develop their imagination and creativity through a range of independent and adult focused activities including, music, dance, role play, art and design and small world play. They will have regular opportunities to experiment with and talk about colours and textures using the art, collage and malleable materials constantly available to them. They will have opportunities to experiment with sounds, move to music and build a repertoire of songs during music lessons and through the use of the music area both indoors and outdoors. A specialist teacher will teach music. Your child will be encouraged to design and make things using a range of materials, learning how to join materials together and to make choices about suitable materials.

We all look forward to a busy term in Reception and would like to thank you all for the help and support you give us. There will be opportunities for parents to be involved in many of our classroom activities throughout the term. Please let us know if you are interested in doing so. We look forward to seeing you at our Meet and Greet evening, where we will be able to answer your questions and provide further information.

Diary Dates

15th September – Primary Meet and Greet Evening – (Main Hall and then classrooms)

27th September – Grandparents' Day

30th September – Trip to Post Office (permission pending)

4th October – Reception Reading Workshop

27th October – Foundation Stage Fancy Dress Party

24th November – Trip to Qurum Park

5^h Dec – Carols by Candlelight

14th & 15th December – Foundation Stage Christmas Production performances

16th December – Reception Christmas Party

Many thanks,

Mrs Venus (Year Leader)

Miss Law

Ms Britnell