

Foundation Stage – Reception Term 2 2009 / 2010

Dear Parents

Welcome back to an action packed term in Reception. We would like to extend a special welcome to our new children this term. All the Reception staff are looking forward to another exciting term working and playing alongside your child.

This term includes several special events for the Reception children. We will be taking part in the Reception sports day and Reception swimming gala. There will also be an Easter Egg competition which gets you involved! You will receive more details of all these events later in the term. We shall also be visiting the Fire College to learn about People Who help us in the community (pending permission).

Our topic for this term will be 'The Sea' and 'People Who Help Us' . We shall also be growing things in our garden. Many activities and learning experiences are planned across all the areas of the Foundation Stage curriculum to link in with these topics. These activities are differentiated to ensure that we are building on what each individual child already knows. We shall also be planning activities for the children on an individual basis, using their interests to enhance, broaden and extend their individual learning. You will be kept informed of the general learning focus for the week via the Parent information board which is situated outside our unit. Please use this information to support your child's learning at home.

Dates For Your Diary:

Reception Sports Day – Sunday 28th February

Reception Swimming Gala – Sunday 28th March

Easter Egg Competition – Tuesday 30th March

Visit to the Fire College – date to be confirmed

Themes

The topics for this term is ' The Sea' and 'People Who Help Us In The Community'
This is a fantastic vehicle for learning across all areas of the curriculum.

CURRICULUM

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

The children will be encouraged to persist at activities for extended periods of time, to operate independently in the wider school environment and develop a sense of belonging to the school community. They will be encouraged to share and take turns with others and to be aware of the feelings of others. We shall be learning to talk about our emotions and how we can deal with e.g. feelings of anger. We shall focus on health and hygiene during our Hand Washing Week in January. The children will continue to work cooperatively within groups in a wide range of activities. They will continue to learn strategies for conflict resolution (our key phrase is "How can we solve this problem?") The children are supported by the adult to think of ways to e.g. make things fair for both parties. We shall continue to develop awareness of our cultural diversity through looking at the festivals celebrated by different people in the setting e.g. Chinese New Year.

Communication, Language and Literacy

As always, the children will be immersed in the world of story and poetry. There will be plenty of opportunity for story telling and reading, both by adults (including parents) and the children themselves. Through a wide range of reading resources e.g. story sacks, puppets, big books, and activities both indoors and outdoors, the children will be encouraged to use a variety of strategies when reading in order to develop their understanding of story structures and elements such as rhyme. They will further develop their phonic knowledge and begin to apply this in their own writing. We shall continue to use the Jolly Phonics scheme to supplement our phonic learning from Linking Letters and Sounds. Parents will be kept informed about the focus for our learning each week via the information board. Opportunities for writing will be present in all learning areas in the setting. The children will have opportunities to express their thinking and feelings to their peers on a regular basis and they will be encouraged to listen to others and comment upon what they say. There is ample opportunity to engage in role play and drama both indoors and outdoors. The children love to act out familiar stories and we will be making the most of our outdoor stage area throughout the term.

Mathematical Knowledge and Understanding

The children will be encouraged to develop their knowledge of numbers and counting through games and practical activities. We shall continue to count in steps of 2 and 5 and begin counting in steps of 10. They will be encouraged to use the vocabulary of addition and subtraction in practical activities. They will begin to use the correct names for solid shapes and will talk about, recognise and recreate patterns. Opportunities for solving mathematical problems will occur on a daily basis. They will continue to develop their understanding of the use of coins in practical activities e.g. shopping/paying bills in the Chinese Restaurant. Through practical activities in e.g. the sand or water areas, we shall further develop the childrens' understanding of the concept of weights and measures and encourage the use of mathematical language in these areas eg. heavier / lighter / lightest / heaviest, full, empty, half full, longer / shorter / longest / shortest. The children will be encouraged to play games that require the development and use of positional language and ordinal language.

Knowledge and Understanding of the World

We shall start the term finding out about life in the sea. The children will be encouraged to notice the features of different animals and be encouraged to group them/sort them and talk about how they are similar / different. They will design and make a variety of objects using a range of construction kits. They will continue to use a computer in all areas of their learning. Mr. Parsons is our specialist ICT teacher and the children will continue to receive half an hour lesson each week with him. The children will also have opportunity to use technology to support their learning e.g. using remote control toys, programmable toys, a digital video recorder and a digital microscope. They will look carefully at the immediate environment, identify main features of where we live and talk about their likes and dislikes. They will be involved in watching and commenting upon change through gardening and cookery activities and developing vocabulary to talk about the changes they observe over time. In all areas, the children will be encouraged to ask questions and make comments on why or how things happen. We shall be developing our knowledge of the community by visiting the Fire College and learning about how fire fighters help us. We shall also be developing our awareness of different cultures through learning about the festival of Chinese New Year.

Creative Development

The children will have opportunity to develop their creative thinking through role play and other activities such as small world play, movement and art activities. They will have opportunities to explore a variety of art mediums in order to express themselves creatively. They will be encouraged to make choices and produce their own work while being helped to develop the necessary skills to design, make, join, paint etc. They will sing on their own and explore the sounds they can make. They will use movement to express their moods and feelings, and also in response to music.

The children will continue to have half an hour of music with our music specialist, Miss Proctor. This term the children will continue to learn a variety of action songs which aim to develop their knowledge and understanding of beat and tempo, dynamics (loud and quiet) and pitch. They will explore how sounds are made and use a greater selection of percussion instruments.

Physical Development

The children will be encouraged to refine their fine motor skills, handling tools and equipment with increasing care and control. Opportunity to develop fine motor control is developed through a vast range of activities such as use of playdough, clay, threading, cutting and sticking, construction activities and through using a variety of tools requiring great hand and eye co-ordination. Outdoors there is opportunity to develop gross motor control through use of large blocks and fabric, climbing apparatus, balance beam and scooters/bikes. During the holiday a super new climbing structure has been installed in our outdoor classroom. The children will also experiment with a range of movements including running, jumping and throwing and will develop their accuracy and control in movement through a series of games and races. They will continue to have a specialist PE lesson with Mrs. Reeves and also a weekly swimming lesson. This term we shall have a Swimming gala for Reception plus our Reception sports day.

Parental Involvement

We all look forward to another busy term in Reception and would like to thank you all for the help and support you give us. There will be an opportunity for parents to be involved in our trip to the Fire College. We will confirm the date of this trip once we have permission from Andy Young. Please let us know if you are interested in taking part in this trip. If you would like to be involved on a more regular basis, the teachers would welcome parent helpers in class; it is always greatly appreciated.

Many thanks,

Mrs Venus (Reception Year Leader)
Ms Britnell
Miss Law