

Reception: Autumn 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to Reception! We have absolutely loved getting to know the children as they have transitioned into school and cannot wait to continue getting to know each other this term! During this time, we will be focusing on our mental health and wellbeing – and will be spending a lot of time discussing how to be kind friends, whilst also developing our independent learning skills. This links nicely to our overarching termly theme ‘All about me’ that we will explore through both carpet sessions and within play. This is a wonderful time to share and celebrate each child for who they are.

This letter will provide you with further information about the coming term. You will also be able to find a topic map on the school website that outlines and further details the topics areas and learning intentions for this term.

Communication and Language

There will be an emphasis this term on developing language and speech. Throughout the day we will be encouraging the children to engage in discussion and use a range of vocabulary and self-expression. Children will have opportunities to ask and answer questions relating to a number of topics, expressing themselves effectively. We will also be widening the children’s understanding of discussion by demonstrating the importance of listening. We hope that all children will grow in confidence to contribute to group and class discussions comfortably.

In order to support your child at home we would ask that you talk as much as possible about their day at school. This could be during cooking experiences, family meal times or at story time.

Reading and Writing

This term we will be focussing on early reading and writing skills. We will be teaching simple sounds and encouraging the children to blend from the beginning. The children will develop their sight vocabulary – to read short words such as: the, go & I. The children know these words as ‘red words’ or ‘tricky words.’ When writing, they will be asked to listen to the sounds in words and to write what they can hear. We will also focus on the correct letter formation of lower case letters. Name writing (first and surname) will be ongoing throughout the term. It is important that the children practise writing their names at home.

During the first few weeks of school, children will receive a reading book and reading record. Please listen to your child read each night and record a note inside their reading record. Each book should be read twice. We will change these books on a **Monday, Wednesday** and **Friday**. It is really useful to keep the books inside their book bags as we will read with them in school too.

Children will choose a library book to take home on a **Thursday** – these must then be returned the **following Thursday**. These are books that promote a love of reading, and are to be enjoyed together - it is likely that they will not be able to decode these independently!

Supporting your child's learning

Please use these ideas to support your child when reading their books with you at home.

- When reading, remind them to treat books with respect.
- Encourage them to point to words and letters.
- Encourage them to follow the text from left to right.
- Ask your child questions about the story.
- Encourage them to talk about the pictures.
- Help them re-tell the story to you.

Maths

The children will focus on number recognition, counting in order and counting sets of objects. We will do work on 2D shape as well as beginning to understand simple written addition and acting this out practically. Please see the topic map for more detail. Our maths sessions also include naming the months of the year, the days of the week and recognising the date.

Supporting your child's mathematical learning at home:

- Singing number rhymes.
- Counting, for example using fingers.
- Recognising numbers.
- Looking for shapes in the environment.
- Saying the days of the week, months of the year.
- Allowing your children to look at and ask questions about coins.

Understanding the World

The children will have access to construction resources and will be encouraged to design, build and construct various models relating to the themes. We have a wide range of technology to enhance the children's learning and will be beginning to teach about simple programming. We will also be regularly cooking and discussing important safety rules and hygiene routines. Every Tuesday morning the children will have an opportunity to make and enjoy toast during our very popular 'Toasty Tuesdays'.

Physical Development

This term, the children will have one PE session with our specialist PE teacher. Both sessions will take place on **Tuesday afternoon** and therefore we ask children to arrive at school in their P.E kit on that day. They do not need to bring school uniform on this day, as they will also return home in their PE kits. We still ask that you please ensure all items (including socks) are named.

Please note:

Outdoor play is fundamental to the children's physical development. We encourage the children to explore our outdoor area where they have access to learning opportunities that are not always available in the classroom environment.

We are extremely lucky to have continued use of our wonderful garden space on Copleston Road. The children will visit once a week, Calico class on a **Monday** and Denim class on a **Thursday**. On these days please make sure your child has appropriate outdoor footwear and a waterproof jacket. When appropriate, it is also useful to bring welly-boots or an all-in-one waterproof suit as the children can get quite muddy! If your child is attending Owls on their garden day, a change of uniform (including clean shoes) is advisable.

We will continue to encourage the children to recognise the importance of keeping healthy in a variety of ways, through diet, physical exercise and hygiene. Please encourage your children to wash their hands before eating and after using the toilet at home.

Expressive Arts and Design

Children will develop their representational skills through free painting and drawing as well as through observational work. They will be using different media to experiment with colour and texture.

Our children will participate in specialist music and singing sessions. Rose, our Music teacher from the Southwark Music Service, will teach music on a **Thursday** (Calico) and **Friday** (Denim). We will also be dedicating time on **Wednesday** mornings to singing - singing is a staple of our everyday teaching, so expect to learn lots of new songs from your children! During these sessions, the children will have opportunities to experiment with finding different sounds that can be made with a selection of musical instruments from different groups. They will also be learning to match movements to music.

There will be continued access to imaginative play areas, including the role play area and small world resources (the train set, animals, garage and underwater world).

Personal, Social and Emotional Development.

Through carpet times, we will be focusing on following rules and working together as a team. As mentioned above, our topics will revolve around the topic title 'All about me' this term, giving us the opportunity to talk about our similarities, differences and what makes us special!

We will also be celebrating the festivals Diwali and Christmas. Children will be participating in activities relating to these festivals. It is important that children are aware of different faiths as this encourages them to value and respect one another's cultures and beliefs. If your family participates in any other festivities, please do let us know, as this is something we can share and discuss together in class as well!

Reminders

- It is vital that you let the school know if you are unable to collect your child from school. You can do this by speaking to the class teacher, or contacting the office, to inform us of who will be collecting your child.
- Please ensure that your child brings their book bag to school every day.
- Please ensure that all items of clothing, including PE kits, are **clearly labelled** with your child's name.

Kind regards,

Miss Tee & Miss Hogg