



# Reception Autumn Term

## Curriculum Newsletter

2017 - 2018

### **Our Topics**

In Reception at St Richard Reynolds we aim to build upon the children's learning to support them in their development so we do not base our planning on topics but rather we consider the skills that we wish our children to develop and then use their interests to help engage them in this learning.

This term our activities will be centred on "Getting to know you". We will be celebrating our similarities and differences and we will be reading lots of stories to encourage and support our focus. We will be concentrating particularly on learning peers' and teachers' names.

### **Personal, Social and Emotional Development**

We will learn that we are members of a class/school and must try to behave according to the class/school code of behaviour. This will include learning about sitting nicely; putting our hands up if we have something to share; not calling out; and sharing resources. We will also be looking at how we celebrate various events at home and how people of other cultures celebrate; this will culminate in our Christmas festivities.

### **Communication and Language**

The use of talk plays a large part in our learning in Reception. Children will be encouraged to engage in one to one, small group and class discussions. Many lessons will be purely talk based and speech will be modelled daily to children in order for them to learn how to apply tenses and key vocabulary.

### **Physical Development**

This term, Reception will have two PE sessions per week, and these will generally take place in the school hall. We would ask you to send in your child's PE kit for it to remain at school (generally PE kits only need to be washed at the end of every half term). In our initial PE lessons, we will only be taking off our shoes and socks. *Please label all items of clothing!*

## Parents as partners: How can parents help their child at home?

We are often asked this question once the children have settled into Reception and their initial anxieties have passed. We have therefore put together a few ideas and suggestions to help you help your child and explain some of the tasks your child will be undertaking in the Autumn Term.

You can help your child by:

1. Talking to them about their school day, and explaining about traditions and celebrations that you share as a family at home.
2. Encouraging your child to paint, colour and draw on a large and small scale using a variety of mark makers, e.g. wax crayons, felt tips, floor chalks, sticks in the mud and sand pit etc. It is particularly important when using pencils and felt tips that you encourage and help your child to hold their pencil correctly. In addition, allowing your child to practise their fine motor skills by using a variety of tools such as scissors for cutting, and sticking stickers.
3. Supporting them to recognise and write their name. Children can attempt tracing, copying and writing the letters from memory. The RWI (Read Write, Inc.) scheme uses rhymes to support the formation of the letters and we will share these with parents once the children have begun to learn their letter sounds. Please remember – capital letters only at the beginning of names and lower case for the rest.
4. Practising letter sounds little and often. We teach reading, writing and spelling using synthetic phonics and

our curriculum uses the Read Write Inc. scheme. This is an interactive way of learning pure sounds and blending and segmenting them to read and write words. Once we start learning the sounds we will send home flash cards of the sounds they have learnt that week with some tips and games you can play with your child to support letter recognition and word building. The following website provides some useful tips for teaching phonics, including audio clips for the correct pronunciation of the sounds.

<http://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/reading-owl/expert-help/phonics-made-easy>.

Do not panic if your child does not remember the sounds immediately – we will be re-visiting the work regularly over the later terms to embed, consolidate and extend as appropriate.

5. Playing games with numbers, cards, dice and dominoes. Mathematics is taught through a range of practical activities and games through which children will become more familiar with numbers, shapes and signs during the year.
6. Allowing them to attempt their own uniform in the morning; particularly, shoes, socks tights and jumpers. Although it is appreciated that buttons can be tricky, we would encourage children to try and have a go by themselves- a skill they will not develop if they are aided with dressing each morning.

## **Tapestry**

This year we will be using tapestry to record what your child is doing at school on a regular basis. Tapestry will be an effective tool in creating a profile for each individual child that can be viewed at home as well as at school. This way parents/carers will be regularly informed to what their child has been doing and what activities they have been engaging in at school. We would really appreciate parental contribution to Tapestry, sharing what your child is doing at home which allows us to build a holistic view of your child whilst building their EYFS profiles.

## **Birthdays**

As a school we have moved away from bringing in cakes and sweets to celebrate birthdays, if your child would like to celebrate their birthday with their peers in school, we very much welcome them to bring in something the whole class can enjoy. For example, one of their favourite stories from home that can be read to the class. They will of course also receive a special birthday sticker from Mr Hasker too!

## **Class reps**

Our class reps are 2 or 3 parents from within our class. They are the link between the class teacher and the other parents of the class. They will be in charge of updating parents with regards to upcoming dates and events throughout the year and will pass on any messages from Mr Hasker if necessary. Once chosen, we very much look forward to working with them.

## **Class fund**

Finally, we would like to ask you for a voluntary contribution of £10 per term or £30 for the year to support our work with the children. This enables us to be able to buy items to help our activities, as well as ingredients for cooking, plants for growing etc. Please send cash in an envelope clearly marked with your child's name.

We hope that you find this a useful overview of the activities we will be doing this term and some simple but valuable ways in which you can support at home. Please remember that your children are working very hard at school and that these ideas are not designed as formal homework- rather that you may now seize the opportunities as they arise naturally at home to reinforce the work that the children undertake at school.

Please do not hesitate to talk to us with any queries or concerns that you or your child may have. You can always email at: [primary@srrcc.org.uk](mailto:primary@srrcc.org.uk).

We are very much looking forward to another successful academic year at St Richard Reynolds!

Kind regards,

Mr Hasker and Mrs Stevens

## **Important Dates**

**Wednesday 20th September**- Reception children start full time

**Friday 22nd September**- School Photos

**Monday 25th September**- Friday 28th September- Poetry Week

**Monday 25th September**- Poet visit and book signing after school

**Thursday 28th September**- Poetry Exhibition

**Wednesday 11th October**- House Afternoon

**Monday 16th October**- Friday 20th October- School Closed

**Monday 23rd October- Friday 27th October**- Half-term

**Tuesday 31st October**- Parents Evening

**Wednesday 1st November**- All Saints Day. New build opening mass

**Thursday 2nd November**- Parents Evening

**Monday 20th November**- Flu Vaccinations

**Friday 1st December**- School closed

**Thursday 7th December**- Infant Nativity

**Wednesday 20th December**- House Afternoon

**Friday 22nd December**- End of term