Reception Newsletter

Welcome to Reception

A very warm welcome to Reception at Dashwood Banbury Academy! We are looking forward to an exciting year of learning, discovery and fun.

- Our Reception team this year is **Steph, Clodagh, Zoë, Yogita and Leah**. In the EYFS at Dashwood, staff are known by their first names.
- Each term you will receive a class newsletter, which will be available on the school website under **'Letters to Parents'** and sent via Arbor/email. If you would prefer a paper copy, please contact the school office. Most school communication is sent electronically, so please check your emails regularly.

PE and Forest School

Children will take part in **PE and Forest School** sessions weekly this term.
Forest School sessions will take place on Tuesdays and PE will be on Fridays.
Please note – these sessions will not take place for the first 2 weeks of term to allow pupils to fully settle into their new classes.

- PE kits can be left in school throughout the term, so children are always prepared for PE lessons and any additional sporting activities that may take place.
- On Forest School days, children should bring **wellies** and a bag containing **old, warm clothes** or waterproof jacket and trousers to wear over uniform as they are likely to get muddy while exploring outdoors. Wellies can remain in school on our wellie shelf as these are often used daily for outdoor play too.

Uniform reminders

- Pupils should wear **black school shoes** (not trainers).
- Trousers, skirts, shorts and dresses should also be **black** and not grey.
- **Jewellery** is not permitted for safety reasons. Earrings can be worn but these must be stud earrings and not hoops. Earrings must also be removed for PE lessons. Staff are not able to do this; parents or pupils are responsible for taking out earrings.
- We go outside every day so please bring appropriate **outdoor clothing** to wear in addition to school uniform e.g. warm coat/raincoat, sun/woolly hat.
- Please could all pupils bring a **named book bag** to school every day.

Topic:

Once Upon A Time…

Our topic this term is **Once Upon a Time...**, where the children will be exploring a range of traditional tales. Our main focus stories will be **The Little Red Hen** and **The Three Little Pigs**, alongside a selection of traditional nursery rhymes.
To launch our topic, the children will enjoy tasting a variety of breads from The Little Red Hen's Bakery!
Please ensure that staff are aware of any allergies or food intolerances your child may have.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development



During the first term, the children will spend time getting to know one another, building relationships with staff and settling into Reception. They will learn our class expectations, both indoors and outdoors, and develop important skills such as sharing, taking turns and working cooperatively.
In the Early Years, we place a strong emphasis on positive behaviour and supporting children to recognise and regulate their emotions through the **Zones of Regulation**. This helps children to identify how they are feeling, understand why they feel that way and learn strategies to manage their emotions and solve problems.
The children will also work together towards a whole-class reward, encouraging teamwork, kindness and a sense of belonging.

Maths



During the first few weeks, the children will be learning about the days of the week and daily routines, using language such as *first*, *next* and *after that* to describe sequences of events.

In maths, we will focus on numbers to 10, learning to recognise numerals and explore the composition of numbers. We will introduce **subitising** (instantly recognising how many objects there are without counting) with groups of up to five. The children will also compare groups using mathematical language such as *more* and *fewer*, and explore, create and spot mistakes in simple repeating patterns.

HOME ACTIVITY

Practise counting aloud to 10 and counting items accurately, saying one number for each item. You can use this website to encourage your child to practise their number skills
http://www.topmarks.co.uk/learning-to-count/ladybird-spots

Expressive Arts and Design



Over the coming weeks, we will be exploring a range of materials linked to our class story, The Three Little Pigs. The children will become architects and builders, designing, constructing and testing houses to see if they can withstand all weathers and keep the Three Little Pigs safe.

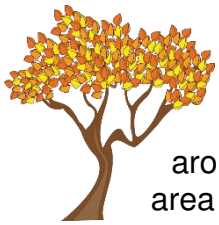
Children will also have daily access to our art area, where they will explore a variety of creative materials, tools and techniques, including colour mixing, painting, collage and model making.

Physical Development

During the first term, we will be supporting the children to develop the fine motor skills needed for writing. They will learn to form letters correctly while developing an effective tripod pencil grip through a range of fun activities that strengthen the muscles in their hands and fingers.

Pupils will be coming home with 'Sound books' to practise their letter formation. Please can these be completed each week and handed back to school on a Thursday.

To also help prepare for PE lessons, please encourage your child to practise dressing and undressing independently at home, including changing into and out of their school uniform and PE kit.



Understanding the World

During Term 1, we will be exploring and making observations of the animal characters in our stories, looking at their features and draw pictures of them. We will also be looking at the processes and changes that are going on in the natural world around us during autumn. We will also be looking the buildings around us in our local area and which are of importance to the local community and why.

Communication and Language

Communication is central to children's learning and development, so we will encourage plenty of meaningful conversations throughout the day. We will introduce new vocabulary through our teaching and play, modelling rich language to help children build and extend their sentences. The children will also learn and use common social phrases as they interact with adults and their peers.

Through our daily story times, the children will become familiar with the language and vocabulary of traditional tales, joining in with repeated refrains, rhymes and familiar story patterns to develop their confidence as communicators.

Literacy

During our daily phonics sessions, the children will begin by developing their **'Fred Talk'** skills, learning to orally segment and blend sounds in words (for example, *c-a-t* becomes *cat*). Alongside this, they will begin learning a new phonics sound each day.

Later in the term, children will receive a phonics sound book to take home each week, giving them the opportunity to practise the sounds they have been learning in school and continue developing their reading skills at home.

HOME ACTIVITY



You can use this Fred game to encourage your child to practise their 'Fred talk' and blending skills https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/Htk8qlgt/pWM0plMS
We also strongly encourage you to read a bedtime story with your child each day. This has a huge impact on learning and develops a range of skills, including exposing children to a wide ranging vocabulary.
You could borrow a book from our lending library trolley or share different traditional tales using Storyteller videos: Traditional Tales - Oxford Owl for Home

REMINDERS AND DATES

https://dashwood.academies.aspirationsacademies.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/8/2026/07/Term-1-dates-2026.docx.pdf