Reception Newsletter - Term 2



Welcome to a New Term!

We are delighted to begin a new term of learning and discovery. Our driving question this term is **"What can we do to keep us safe and healthy?"** Throughout the term, the children will explore what it means to look after themselves and others, learning about healthy choices, personal safety, wellbeing and how we can make positive decisions in our everyday lives.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our parents and carers for your **continued support and help**. Your encouragement at home makes such a positive difference to your child's learning and development, and we truly appreciate the time and effort you put in.

A Few Reminders

- **Newsletters:** Just a reminder that you will receive a newsletter every term. This will be available on the school website under **'Letters to Parents'**. If you would prefer a paper copy of the newsletter, please let the school office know.
- **Forest School:** There will be **no Forest School this term.** Forest School sessions will continue in **Term 3**.
- **PE:** PE will continue to take place on a **Friday** for both classes this term. We encourage children to leave their PE kits in school so that they are available for each session.
- **Packed Lunches:** If your child brings a packed lunch to school, please ensure that it is a **balanced and healthy lunch**. We also ask that any fruit or vegetables provided are cut into suitable pieces for the children. Thank you for your support with this.

Homework and Uniform

A gentle reminder that **homework is an important part of your child's learning**. Regularly completing homework helps children to practise and consolidate the skills they have learned in school, develop independence and take responsibility for their learning. Please continue to support your child in completing and returning their homework on time.

Finally, please remember our **school uniform expectations**. We ask that children come to school wearing the correct uniform each day, including appropriate footwear and following our guidelines for jewellery, hairstyles and accessories. Your support in maintaining these expectations helps our children feel a strong sense of belonging and pride in our school community. **Please note: no hoop earrings to be worn. Only a single stud in each ear is permitted but these must be removed for PE.**

Thank you once again for your **continued support throughout the term**. We look forward to a happy, healthy and successful term of learning together!



Personal, Social and Emotional Development

This term one of our main focuses within PSED is motivation. We are encouraging the children to have a positive attitude towards their learning and to keep trying and show perseverance. As a whole school, we are trying to use the phrase – 'nothing is impossible, in fact the word itself says: I'm possible' This term our topic is linked to what we can do to keep ourselves healthy and safe. We will be exploring different emotions, healthy choices and personal hygiene, superheroes. We will also be looking further at the Zones of Regulation and understanding our own and other people's emotions.

Maths

The pupils have been amazing last term learning how to measure, compare size, capacity and weight. Over this new term, we will carry on learning numbers to 5 which includes knowing number bonds, one more/less and subitising. We will also have a focus on naming, describing, manipulating 2D shapes to develop our spatial reasoning skills. The children will also begin to use positional language to describe how items are positioned in relation to other items.

Expressive Arts and Design



At the start of the term, we will be making some bonfire and firework paintings using a range of materials. We will continue to practise art skills through Diwali rangoli patterns and Christmas crafts. Our topic area will be used a lot during this term and will be giving the children opportunities to role play different scenarios related to our theme of 'how can we keep ourselves healthy and safe?' The children can act as a shop keeper, vet, nurse, doctor, or even a patient.

Physical Development

This term we are going to be focusing on how we can live a healthy lifestyle looking into the types of food we should eat and how to exercise in different ways. We will be looking at ways in which we can keep our bodies healthy and active. This will also include oral health and how brushing our teeth is vital. We will also be reminding the children the importance of washing our hands, not only after we have been to the toilet but also before eating, after handling animals and at other points during the day. Last term we learned a lovely song to sing whilst washing our hands - asking the children about this will provide a home-school link and give you an insight into what we have learned!

The children will be continuing with weekly P.E. lessons on a Friday. Please keep encouraging your child to practise getting dressed independently, including fastening and unfastening buttons. Why not put a song on at home and challenge them to get dressed before the song finishes all on their own?
We will have a big focus on gross motor skills this term which will really develop the children's confidence in their moving and handling. We will get the apparatus out for the children to experiment with during our PE sessions which they will be able to climb under, over and balance and swing on.

Understanding the World

We will be looking at and discussing with the children how they celebrate Christmas. We will also learn about other upcoming festivals such as bonfire night. The discussions we have will be centred on pupils showing respect and tolerance for others views and beliefs and how we all have similarities and differences. **We would**

love you to add any celebrations or religious/cultural events your child takes part in on Tapestry for us to share with their peers. We will be learning about people who help us and how they help keep us healthy and safe for example: doctors, police officers, and dentists to name a few! We will be thinking about what would happen if these roles didn't exist and making comparisons to the past when these roles weren't as advanced. There will also be a big focus on showing care and concern for living things, including how we can do our part by taking care of our immediate environment.

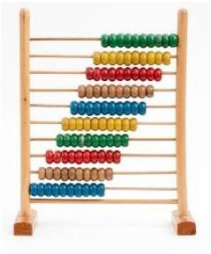


Communication and Language, Reading and Writing

The children worked very hard in Term 1 to learn the first few sounds and complete their homework; thank you for supporting your child with this. This term we will be continuing to learn their sounds and continuing to practise Fred-talking (segmenting) and blending daily (e.g., sounding out words like pet as p-e-t). We hope children will become more confident to read and write some simple words using their phonic knowledge independently. We are also focusing on supporting children to write their names independently using correct letter formation.

HOME ACTIVITIES

Homework folders will continue to go home weekly (due in on Thursdays) Please can you ensure your child is reviewing and learning the sounds as well as the green words. These are important foundation skills to help them when starting to read books and write sentences.



To practise reading skills at home you could play these ICT games:
https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/Phase2Menu.htm
https://www.phonicsbloom.com/uk/game/list/phonics-games-phase-2
Alternatively, practise playing i-spy using initial sounds e.g. I spy with my little eye, something beginning with 'sh'.
Some online maths games you could try:
One more/one less - https://www.topmarks.co.uk/learning-to-count/chopper-squad
Counting and recognising numbers - https://www.topmarks.co.uk/learning-to-count/underwater-counting
Shape patterns - https://www.topmarks.co.uk/ordering-and-sequencing/shape-patterns
Practise subitising by playing games that involve quickly recognising amounts up to 5 without counting e.g. dominoes with spots, or games using a 6-sided spot dice.
Numbots app – letter has been sent with your individual logins.

The children really enjoy sharing things they have done at home with their peers, so we encourage you to add any activities, achievements, events or interests from home onto **Tapestry**. These photos can then be used by your child to tell the class about their experiences out of school.

REMINDERS AND DATES

PE Day – Friday

Monday 2nd November– Back to school after half term.
Thursday 5th November - Flu vaccinations.
Thursday 12th November – 9–10am - Parent pod for parents of all year groups - see poster in the office or online at: https://www.dashwood-aspirations.org/about-us/dashwood-action-committee/
Friday 13th November – Sibling photos
Tuesday 10th and Thursday 12th November - Parents Evening
Monday 16th November - Odd Socks Day – children can wear odd socks to school in support of Anti-bullying
Monday 16th-Friday 20th November - Anti - Bullying Week.
Thursday 19th November – 4-5pm – Thursday 19th November – 4-5pm – Reception open evening for new pupils for September 2027
Thursday 26th November - Mini Medics (more information to come in a separate letter)
Friday 27th and Monday 30th November – INSET DAY: School closed for all pupils
Monday 7th December – Reception Church Trip
Wednesday 16th December – Reception Nativity to parents 2pm
Wednesday 16th December – Christmas Dinner Day
Friday 18th December – Last day of Term 2 and Christmas Jumper/Party Dress Day
Monday 4th January – INSET DAY: School closed for all pupils
Tuesday 5th January - First day back after Christmas Holidays