



This term, Reception will be learning through the theme:



Festivals and Celebrations

We will find out how and why different festivals and occasions are celebrated.

We will learn through play based activities, such as:



- ◆ Creating firework pictures on the computer.
- ◆ Making Diva Lamps from modelling clay.
- ◆ Role playing different celebrations with our friends.
- ◆ Making and writing cards.
- ◆ Christmas themed arts and crafts.

We will also be learning about the seasons and how our environment changes during winter.

We will use the skills and knowledge we are taught in Literacy and Maths to support our learning throughout the curriculum.

The above themes and ideas are starting points for the children's learning. Where possible, we will plan activities based on the children's interests and in response to our assessments and observations.

Supporting learning at home



In the Foundation Stage, there are seven areas of learning. Here are some ideas for things you can do at home to help your child's learning. We would love to see any pieces of work or pictures of activities you have done uploaded to Tapestry.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development:

- ❖ Practise getting dressed independently to support changing for PE.
- ❖ Play games involving taking turns and sharing.

Please talk to the staff about any worries the children have so that we can try to sort them out as soon as possible.

Communication and Language:

- ❖ Encourage your child to talk about their time in school. For example, 'Tell me something exciting that happened today' or 'What are you most looking forward to tomorrow?'
- ❖ Reread their favourite stories so that the children know them well enough to tell the story in their own words.
- ❖ Play memory games, e.g. I went to the market...
- ❖ Ask about our 'Chatterbox' in school and some of the new words they have learned.

Physical Development:

- ❖ Help the children to develop their 'perfect pencil grip' when writing (tripod grip). [Click here](#) (on Tapestry post) to see a quick video to support this.
- ❖ Support scissor skills, e.g. by cutting out pictures from a magazine to go with a letter to Father Christmas.
- ❖ Practise independently using a knife and fork when eating.

Literacy:

- ❖ Help the children to learn their sounds using the phonics tiles. Please see a member of staff if you need a new set.
- ❖ Learn to read some words by sight, using our 'Speedy Words' resources to help increase fluency.
- ❖ Practise correct letter formation. All letters (apart from d and e) start at the top. See *Tapestry post for a list of the handwriting ditties we use in school.*
- ❖ Write a letter to Father Christmas, using the sounds they can hear.

Maths:

- ❖ Say number names in order and count accurately in everyday contexts, e.g. counting steps as you walk up them.
- ❖ Play games involving dice to support counting and automatic recognition of the amounts on the dice.
- ❖ Use language to compare amounts and numbers (bigger, smaller, more, less, greater than, fewer, the same).

Understanding the World:

- ❖ Talk about special celebrations you have as a family. How do you celebrate?
- ❖ Go on a 'Winter Walk' and talk about how things change from Autumn to Winter.

Expressive Arts and Design:

- ❖ Draw or paint pictures of winter scenes.
- ❖ Make your own Christmas crafts and share on Tapestry.

Characteristics of Effective Learning: Learning behaviours are an important part of the Early Years curriculum, with emphasis on how children learn as well as what they learn. To make this relevant to the children, we will introduce the characteristics of effective learning by using characters from the Mr Men and Little Miss books, which has been a  great success in previous years! Listen out for your children talking about how they have been resilient like Mr Bump, or interested in finding out new things like Little Miss Curious!

News / Coming Up...

Tapestry

It has been lovely to see more and more children sharing their news and achievements from home on Tapestry. We often share the photos with the rest of the class and encourage the children to talk about what they have been doing, which is great for their confidence and self-esteem. Please keep them coming! Please see a member of staff if you are unsure how to upload posts to your child's account.

Phonics / Early Reading Workshop

Unfortunately, with current restrictions, we will not be able to run our annual phonics / early reading workshop for parents. Instead, we will send out information within the next couple of weeks to provide more details about how phonics is taught in school and how you can help your child at home.

Please remember...

PE is every **Tuesday**. From this half term, the children will change into their full PE kit. Please make sure a labelled PE kit is in school for each lesson.



Please bring book bags and a filled water bottle every day. At some point during the first few weeks, the children will start to bring reading books home. Please try to read with your children as often as possible (at least 3 times a week, if possible).