Curriculum Newsletter
Reception
Autumn Term 1

We have been settling into our new environment, learning classroom and school expectations. We have also been learning how to listen carefully and why this is important. We have really enjoyed exploring the three classrooms and the outside environment. We have enjoyed regular story times and have been learning rhymes, poems and songs. The teachers have been completing our statutory baseline assessments as well as our in school assessments with us. We have been encouraging children to make independent choices and to carry out what they have been taught independently.

Literacy

We use Drawing Club to excite the children about our Literacy. Drawing Club is a true adventure. “Based around the golden blend of picture books, tales and quests, it involves a short period of time together as a whole class followed by time with children exploring their ideas and creativity.” (https://www.canigoandplaynow.com/drawing-club.html). We use the Twinkl phonics program to support our learning in reading and writing. We will be learning to read and spell words linked to our scheme.

How can I help at home?

Practise writing and recognising your name. Look out for the linked sounds, songs and words in the reading record books.

Maths

The pupils will be encouraged to quantify sets of objects by subitising, rather than counting. When subitising, they can say how many there are in a small group of objects by ‘just seeing’ and knowing straightaway without needing to count. Subitising can be categorised as ‘perceptual’ or ‘conceptual’. Perceptual subitising is used for very small sets of objects (initially up to about 3) and conceptual subitising is used when sub-groups can be seen within a larger set and the whole is recognised, e.g. if 6 dots are arranged in a dice pattern, children may recognise this as ‘two 3s’ and know this is 6. Pupils will engage with activities that draw attention to the purpose of counting – to find out ‘how many’ objects there are. We will be learning to match and sort, compare amounts, compare size, mass and capacity and explore pattern.

How can I help at home?

Play board games and dice games. Point out numbers when out walking. Talk about quantities when baking and setting the table.

Understanding the world

We will be learning about each other, our families and customs. We will be learning to talk about members of our immediate family and community and will name and describe familiar people. We will be exploring pictures, stories and artefacts from the past involving starting school, school life and family life. Pupils will be encouraged to talk about experiences that are familiar to them and how these may have differed in the past (ie birthdays). We will familiarising them with their immediate environment and producing maps of our classrooms. We will be learning to use our senses to describe what we see, hear and feel.

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Physical Development

This Autumn, pupils will be introduced to Physical Education. Pupils will learn the principles of PE lessons such as safely finding space, following instructions, sharing equipment and working individually, in pairs and in groups. They will explore moving in a variety of ways. The pupils will be physically active everyday developing ball skills, cycling, climbing, skipping and movement control so please ensure they are wearing appropriate footwear.

Communication & Language

We will be developing our use of communication and language through retelling stories, role play and talking about our routines. We will be reading frequently to the pupils, and engaging them actively in stories, non-fiction, rhymes and poems.

Music

This is our first time introducing Music lessons with a specialist to reception and we're really excited to starting this journey!
Together, reception will explore the basics of Rhythm, instruments and learning to sing through play and group games.

Personal, Social & Emotional Development

We will be developing positive relationships with pupils and adults and understanding of own behaviour. We will be meeting and making new friends across the three classes.
We are following the Jigsaw Personal and Social program which introduces the children to Jigsaw Genie and Jerry the Cat. This is a program that the whole school uses and is progressive.
Some of the things we talk about within these sessions are:

- Helping others to feel welcome
- Trying to make our school community a better place
- Thinking about everyone's right to learn
- Caring about other people's feelings
- Working well with others

Expressive Arts, Being Imaginative

We will be building a repertoire of songs. We will be exploring our provision, using scissors, glue, paint, collage resources and role play resources.
We will be creating self portraits and split pin 'mini mes' as well as observational drawings.

Please remember to name all items of clothing and pack lunches boxes / water bottles.