



Nursery and Reception Newsletter

Summer Term 2

2023 – 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

A warm welcome back for our sixth and final half term of the year! We hope you have enjoyed a restful half term break. I can't quite believe that we have reached our final seven weeks of this academic year. It is going to be a very busy half term and we are all are greatly looking forward to the learning and events planned over the coming weeks.

Curriculum

This term we are following the children's interests and exploring mini-beasts. We hope to enjoy a mini-beast hunt, develop our knowledge of different creatures and write fact files. We are so excited for our visit to Waddesdon Manor which will also take place this half term and is based around the topic of mini-beasts.

Our bespoke Early Years curriculum will this term focus on growing and planting and look at seasonal change as we finally see the beginnings of summer. As always, developing and embedding key skills in the three prime areas of the Early Years curriculum; Communication and Language, Personal, Social and Emotional Development and Physical Development will continue to remain priority.

For those children starting Reception class in September, transition activities will be taking place throughout this term. Our Reception pupils will also continue to work towards their Early Learning Goals and begin their transition from Early Years into Key Stage 1. Mrs Carter will support our Nursery children to explore wider areas of the school, having lunch in the hall and joining some collective worship celebrations in order to support transition to Reception.

Phonics

Our Reception children have made fantastic progress in our daily phonics sessions this year and will continue to revise and embed all of the phonics knowledge they have gained during the year to prepare them for beginning Phase 5 once they move into Year 1. We have begun sending home weekly phonics home learning sheets that provide you with a little information about the week's phonics learning. Please support your child by encouraging them to share their learning with you at home and practise these new skills.

Last term, all of the September Reception starters began weekly phonics sessions with Mrs Carter, focusing on oral blending skills and sound discrimination. The purpose of these sessions is to begin to build the foundations for phonics to prepare for the daily sessions they will have in Reception. The children have really enjoyed these sessions and we hope they will give them a great head start ready for September.

Maths

Early counting, number and shape is threaded through our indoor and outdoor learning environments and all children are encouraged to develop their mathematical skills through play and exploration of the activities in our provision.

Reception children will continue with a daily focused maths session. These sessions follow the White Rose Maths programme of learning in line with the Maths teaching throughout the rest of the school. This term we will explore doubling, sharing and grouping and develop our understanding of even and odd numbers. We complete the term by deepening our understanding of patterns and relationships.

Drawing Club

Last term Reception began their own drawing club adventure. In drawing club, the wonderful world of stories is used to engage and motivate children to draw and write. We use code writing (and our amazing imaginations) to make things happen to our drawings. We also explicitly teach ambitious vocabulary which might be why your child has been using words like 'discombobulated'. The children have really wowed us with their ideas, from poisonous toadstools to flying monkeys. We love drawing club and we are looking forward to more adventures this half term.

Reading

Reception Reading Awards – We now only have this final seven weeks to work towards achieving your next reading award. We will continue to check reading records every week and count up the number of reads your child has completed at home. Please continue to support your child's early reading development by reading with them for just five minutes every day.

Lending library - The class lending libraries have been a great success and we have been so pleased to see how many children are visiting the lending library boxes regularly to choose new books to enjoy with you at home. Please do remember to return the books back to us in school so that your child can choose a new one to enjoy.

Research tells us that young children whose parents read to them daily have been exposed to at least 290,000 more words by the time they enter school than children who aren't read to regularly. Please, please, please read at least once a day with your child.

Physical Development

We shall continue to take full advantage of our spacious outdoor area to develop key physical skills. As the warmer weather arrives, we are looking forward to making the most of our lovely outdoor spaces. Nursery will be adventuring to wider parts of the school to enjoy parachute games, drumming and ring games.

PE sessions in Reception will continue with Mr Dalmedo twice a week. The children are working towards their independence and self-care skills by changing into and out of PE kits during each lesson so please ensure a full kit is in school for this half term. Our PE days are usually Wednesdays and Thursday but they will remain flexible through the week so we will keep kits in school for the term unless they are in need of washing. Please ensure all items are clearly labelled in a named bag, we had a number of unclaimed items left from last term.

Some of our older Nursery children have begun weekly PE sessions with Mr Dalmedo and these will continue throughout this half term. They are lots of fun and have fast become the highlight of the week! They do not need to bring PE kit to change into for these sessions.

Magic Moments

Thank you for all the wonderful Magic Moments we received last term! We get to see the amazing things your child does at school each day but it has been lovely celebrating all the great moments you have with your child at home too. Magic Moments are those special things that make you proud, it could be as simple as putting shoes on independently or moving up to the next class in swimming lessons. We will send a new blank certificate home with your child this term and look forward to receiving this back with your child's latest 'magical moment'.

Toddler and Baby Group

Mrs Carter runs our weekly Toddler group every Friday during term time in the school hall. All are welcome from babies to pre-schoolers. It's a very friendly group so please do pop along with any younger siblings. Timings are 9:45am – 11:00am.

Weather

In Early Years, we spend so much of our time outdoors and as the weather begins to get warmer could we please ask for you to send your child to school with a named sunhat and ensure that they bring a full, fresh bottle of water to school every day. Sunglasses are not necessary and we ask you to leave these at home to prevent them from becoming lost or broken. Unfortunately, we are not able to apply suncream to the children so please ensure that you apply this before they come to school on the warm and sunny days. Thank you!

Hopefully this newsletter has given you a brief snapshot into the exciting term ahead. If you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to pop in and see myself or Mrs Carter and don't forget to check out Tapestry and the school newsletters for regular updates and news.

Mrs Butcher
Early Years Teacher