



## Early Years Foundation Stage Nursery and Reception Newsletter Spring Term 1 2024 - 2025

I would like to begin by wishing you all a very Happy New Year and hope that you have enjoyed the Christmas break. At the end of last term, we said a sad goodbye to Mrs Lee who has been supporting Mrs Butcher, Mrs Oakes and Mrs Carter over the last year. She will be greatly missed by both staff and children and we wish her well as she now enjoys time with her grandchildren.

I am delighted to have returned to school after my maternity leave and am very much looking forward to teaching Reception once again every Monday and Tuesday. I would like to thank Mrs Oakes for all the fabulous work she did in my place and we are pleased that she will continue to work with us in Early Years, supporting Nursery and Reception every morning.

We have another busy term ahead and are greatly looking forward to the learning and activities we have planned.

### **Curriculum**

This half term our focus is on the 'Season of Winter' and we will be exploring all the season has to offer through a range of hands-on experiences and exploration of some Winter themed stories. We will also enjoy learning about some upcoming festivals and celebrations, including Chinese New Year.

### **Phonics**

Daily phonics sessions will continue for our Nursery and Reception pupils using our school phonics programme 'Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised'.

In Reception we move onto Phase 3, where we will learn new digraphs (two letters that make one sound) and continue to develop skills of segmenting and blending to read simple sentences. Mrs Butcher and I will continue to send home a weekly phonics sheet which will provide you with information about the sounds and words we have been learning that week. Practising these sounds/words with your children at home really helps them to progress and is an opportunity for them to show off what they can do.

Our nursery children will also continue with their Little Wandle phonics sessions. These short sessions are a fun way to introduce children to sound discrimination and letter sounds through a range of fun listening games. The children really enjoy these sessions, and we have found them to be very beneficial in supporting the transition from Nursery to Reception.

### **Maths**

Nursery children continue to develop early counting and number skills through their play and exploration of the activities in our indoor and outdoor provision. Learning and singing number rhymes will continue throughout the day, in addition to the activities and resources available through our continuous provision.

Reception children will continue to have focused maths sessions through the week. The focus for this half term will be on developing our knowledge of numbers 0-5. Children will develop a greater understanding of the composition of these numbers and the different ways that they can be represented. We will also work on finding one more and one less and improving our subitising skills. Subitising is a maths strategy that is

more efficient when dealing with smaller numbers. It helps children to see how numbers are made up. For example, you can make the number five using different pairs: 0+5, 1+4 and 2+3.

### **Maths lending library**

This term we are excited to open our maths lending library. This is an opportunity for children to borrow Maths games, resources and books to enjoy at home. We hope this will support their developing Maths skills. Please support us by carefully looking after these resources and encouraging your child to return them when they are ready to swap for something new.

### **Reception Reading**

Our Reception children have now all been provided with a reading book and reading bear. At Twyford School reading is so very important to us and we urge you to support your child's reading skills by sharing their reading book with them every day. Please record each read in their reading record. Just 5 minutes together will make a huge difference to giving your child the best possible start to their learning. Each day that a child reads at home will be recorded on a bookmark in school and awards will be given throughout the year to those pupils who achieve 50, 100, 150 and 250 reads at home!

### **Mystery Reader**

Last term we launched mystery reader and it was a huge success. Thank you to those of you that have already volunteered. We would really like to welcome more mums, dads, aunts, uncles, grandmas, granddads and anyone else who would like to share a story with us. Please speak to Mrs Butcher for more information.

### **Rhyme Time**

Both Nursery and Reception will continue with our weekly rhyme time. Each class will learn five new rhymes during this half term. Keep an eye out on Tapestry to see which rhyme we are learning each week!

### **Lending Library**

The class lending libraries will reopen next week. Children will be able to enjoy borrowing a new variety of books.

### **Physical Development**

We shall be taking full advantage of our spacious outdoor area to support the development of key physical skills. We use our outdoor environment in all weathers so please ensure children come to school with a warm named coat, hat, gloves and wellies.

### **PE**

Reception children are enjoying their weekly PE sessions with Mr Dalmedo. They are getting really good at changing independently. Please support your child with these new skills at home, encouraging them to dress and undress. Practise makes perfect!

### **Enrichment**

This term we will explore our school environment and local area; we hope to enjoy some more trips into the village to explore the changing season around us.

### **Toddler and Baby Group**

Our toddler and baby group is back for another year and we are looking forward to welcoming both new and existing families into school each Friday morning. Please do pop on down with your younger ones and spread the word to families and friends. The group will continue to be held every Friday morning from 9:45am – 11:00am in the school hall. No booking required, just turn up, relax with a cup of tea and enjoy! 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, Mrs Butcher or Mrs Carter.

Mrs K Rumble  
Early Years Lead