

Friday 20th October 2023

Dear Reception parents/carers,

Reception Curriculum Letter - Autumn (2nd half)

The Reception children have settled really well this half term. Next half term is jam packed full of learning opportunities. Below you will find a brief outline of what we will be learning in class for each area of the curriculum.

Our Core Values

Happiness: We spread joy to those around us.

Compassion: We care and are kind to all.

Respect: We treat others, as we like to be treated.

Teamwork: We work well with everyone.

Reception Staffing

Chestnut Class teachers: Mrs Frost and Mrs Robinson

Chestnut Class learning support assistant: Mrs Lamacraft

Maple Class teacher: Miss Churchill

Maple Class learning support assistant: Mrs Anielska

Communication

You can email class teachers directly on the class email accounts and we will do our best to get back to you within a couple of working days.

chestnutclass@harefieldinfant.com

mapleclass@harefieldinfant.com

Homework will begin in October

Maths and English homework, along with answers will be handed out every Friday and can be returned to school the following Friday or send a photo of completed work to the class email account.

Reading

Library (story) books will come home every Friday. These can be changed on a Friday providing the previous book is returned.

Children who are ready to read words will bring blending book bag books every Friday, these need to be returned the following Friday. Some children will bring home daily Ditty sheets to read at home to you every day; these can stay at home.

Autumn Term Learning

Next half term we will be learning the following in each subject area.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Our JIGSAW PSHE topic next half term is: Celebrating Differences. We will learn about how we are all different yet all special. We will find out: what we are good at, what makes us special and how we can include everyone in our work and play.

We will then learn about our families and how there are many different types of families, our home and where we live and how these can be different too.

We will also learn about friendships, what makes a good friend and how to stand up for ourselves.

Communication and Language.

We will be learning lots of new songs, especially as we prepare for our Nativity performance in December.

We will be working on building up our vocabulary and using extended sentences in our learning: I like this because.....

This made me feel....because/and.....

Encourage your child to use the words because/and to extend their language at home. And model expressing your feelings with extended sentences.

English

English runs hand in hand with Communication and Language, with all our work being carried out through the use of stories.

Our Key Text for this half term are:

		
<p>We will use this text to practice our rhyming words. We will begin to write simple words as we write lists and spells for our own revolting potions in the mud kitchen and role-play areas.</p>	<p>Children will learn to sequence and retell this sweet story about a biscuit bear who comes to life and decides to create his own biscuit friends. We will be making our own biscuit bears in Reception when learning all about instructional texts. We will learn to write lists and instructions for how to make biscuits.</p>	<p>The children will be learning all about the story of the first Christmas. Sequencing and retelling events from the story and writing simple sentences to retell the story in their own words. The children will also be acting out the story in our classroom role-play as well as preparing to take on starring roles for our own Nativity for parents.</p>

Each day the children will also be working on learning to write their names correctly using the correct tripod grip.

Physical Development

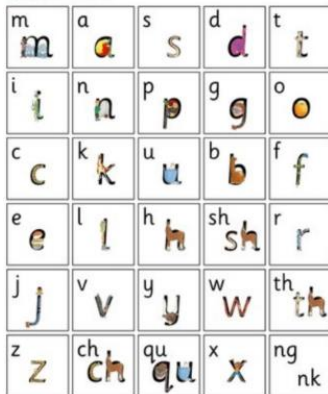
Physical development is a big part of our curriculum and is split into gross and fine motor skills. The gross motor skills using big muscles is extremely important for getting children ready to write. PE is **Every Wednesday Morning** (please can your children be sent to school ready in their PE kit.) Next half term we will be developing our Gymnastic skills as children learn to use streamers to make shapes and move in time to music as we create firework dances. We will then move on to learn different types of balances and rolls during our Gymnastic floor work lessons. Our main focus for fine motor this half term is to be able to cut out shapes using scissors with increasing control. To form our letters correctly and begin to draw pictures with increasing detail.

Phonics

We use a scheme called Read Write Inc Phonics to teach phonics to our children. In Reception, we do this by linking letters to pictures. Children in Reception will learn five sounds a week when working with initial sounds/ Children working on learning their special friend's sounds will learn three new sounds a week with two days to go over new sounds.

By the end of this term, we would like all children to be able to say the sound that each single letter makes and be able to orally blend sounds into words.

Speed Sounds Set 1



Use your green speed sounds books to help your child say the sounds for each letter speedily.

Check your emails or Dojo's for weekly videos to help your child with their phonics at home.

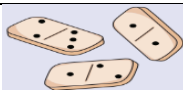
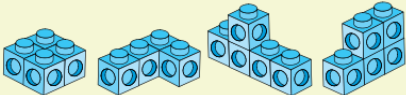

Complete weekly phonics homework and reading with your child to help keep them on track with their reading.

We also have daily story time to develop a love of reading and have books in most areas of the classroom.




Mathematics

We teach children maths every day through short carpet sessions and then have many activities set up inside and outside for the children to practice developing what we have taught through their play.

Next half term children will learn to gain a deep understanding of numbers 1-5. The different ways in which these numbers can be made (number bonds). One more or less than a given number up to five. Ordering numbers and comparing amounts using the words most, fewest, equal amount. We will learn to subitise amounts. Subitising is the ability to look at a small set of objects and instantly know how many there are without counting them. For example, when rolling a dice we do not need to count the dots to know what we have rolled.

		
<p>What numbers are shown on the dominoes? Can you find 3 shown a different way?</p>	<p>How many different shapes can you make with 5 cubes? What can you tell me about them?</p>	<p>Can you subitise the amount of dots? How do you know it is 4/5? What can you see?</p>

We will learn all about circle, triangles and four sided shapes and the properties of these shapes.

		
<p>What shapes can you see in everyday objects?</p>	<p>Can you fit all the smaller shapes in the bigger shapes? What other pictures could you create? What do you notice about the different shapes?</p>	<p>What shapes can you see in this picture? Are there more triangles or squares?</p>

Understanding the World

Next half term is a great opportunity to learn all about different festivals and events that happen all around the world. We will be learning all about:

- Bonfire Night, the history behind it and how to keep safe around fireworks.
- Armistice Day and why it is important to remember soldiers who fought for our freedom.
- Diwali and how it is celebrated.
- Advent and how it is celebrated all around the world.
- Hanukah and how Jewish people celebrate this.
- We will of course be very busy learning the story of the **Nativity** and are looking forward to you all coming to see our performance at 9.30am in the school hall on **Wednesday 13th December.**

Art and Design

We will be using to use a wide range of different materials to make representational images linked to themes in class, refining and adapting our skills. Returning to our artwork to make improvements.

Printing using different materials to make: firework pictures and shape patterns.

Creating our own images of Poppies and learning all about the artist Monet.

Using collage materials to create our own bears.

We will also learn about Kandinsky when making shape artwork during our maths work.

We will be learning to sing in a group, matching the pitch and following a melody when learning all our new songs for the Nativity.

We will be learning to develop story lines in our play. Our role-play this half term will be a witch's cavern for potion making. We will then decorate the home corner for all the different celebrations throughout the half term. In the run up to Christmas, a post office will be added.

Yours faithfully

Miss Churchill and Mrs Frost
Reception teachers