

# Autumn Term 1 Newsletter 2024/2025

Moving up into Reception	The Early Years Curriculum	The seven key features of effective practice in Early Years.
<p>We would like to take this opportunity to share with you how incredibly proud we are of your children! They are settling into Reception amazingly and we are delighted with the progress that they have made in such a small amount of time. We will continue to work with them on general classroom expectations and help them to feel settled in their new environment.</p> <p>We appreciate that the move into Reception is a huge change for the children. However, we want to reassure you that our aim is to transition the children and make them feel safe and secure in their new learning environment. We aim to comfort and support them through reassurance and helping them to understand the expectations and boundaries in their new class.</p> <p>In Reception we teach new ideas and concepts through exciting and engaging activities and allow the children to start to make their own understanding of the world around them. We explore different stories and often teach through text. This creates opportunities to use our imaginations and explore new vocabulary and meaning.</p>	<p>In Reception we continue to follow the Early Years Framework that the children have been working towards in Nursery. This Framework maps out statements and objectives that the children work towards to meet a 'Good Level of Development' by the end of their Reception year.</p> <p>The Curriculum is broken down into:</p> <p><b>Prime areas:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Personal, Social and Emotional development,</li> <li>• Physical development,</li> <li>• Communication and language.</li> </ul> <p><b>Specific areas:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mathematics,</li> <li>• Literacy,</li> <li>• Understanding the world,</li> <li>• Expressive arts and design.</li> </ul>	<p>1) The best for every child,                  2) High-quality care,                  3) The curriculum: what we want children to learn,                  4) Pedagogy: helping children to learn,                  5) Assessment: checking what children have learnt,                  6) Self-regulation and executive function,                  7) A partnership with parents.</p> <div data-bbox="1503 727 2141 842" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 10px 0;"> <p>The characteristics of effective teaching and learning.</p> </div> <p>In planning and guiding what children learn, we reflect on the different rates at which children are developing and adjust our practice appropriately.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Playing and exploring</b> – children investigate and experience things, and 'have a go'.</li> <li>• <b>Active learning</b> – children concentrate and keep on trying if they encounter difficulties and enjoy their achievements.</li> <li>• <b>Creating and thinking critically</b> – children have and develop their own ideas, make links between ideas, and develop strategies for doing things.</li> </ul>

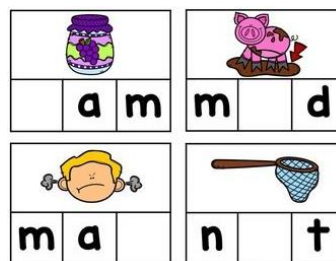
## Read Write Inc

Read Write Inc is the phonics programme that we follow in school to give children a flying start in learning to read and write. The children will be working in their designated Read Write Inc groups and working through different sets of sounds and playing Fred Talk games to help develop their reading and writing skills.



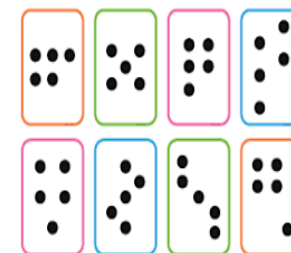
## Literacy

Our Literacy this term will be focused on hearing and identifying the initial (first) sound in a word, the final sound in a word, and the sounds in **CVC** words (consonant, vowel, consonant, such as mad, sat and dig). We will do this through stories, songs, picture cards, word cards and much more. We will use the Read Write Inc sounds to support this.



## Mathematics

This term children will be working with numbers up to 6. Subitising is a very important skill that we focus on in Reception, this is knowing how many of something there is without touch counting with your finger and recognising a quantity in different arrangements. For example, there are 5 dots on each card, even though they are arranged differently.



## Foundation subjects

In Reception our afternoon learning is planned around a foundation subject. We develop our skills, knowledge and understanding in the following subjects: Geography, History, Art, DT, PE, Music, Science, R.E and Computing. We also cover world celebrations and beliefs under our Understanding of the world aspect of the curriculum. All this learning is very practical and has many cross-curricular links to previous learning.

A key focus this half term is getting to know your children and families. We aim to develop a deep understanding around their likes and dislikes and things that they particularly enjoy. We will cover this through the History strand of the curriculum under an overarching topic "All about me". We will also be covering Seasons and Humans under the Science strand of the curriculum.

Along with this, In DT we will be exploring ingredients and also printing in Art. Geography will be implemented through our continuous provision and taught as a standalone foundation subject in Autumn 2 term. For our Music learning we will explore singing and performing and you will be invited into school to watch our Harvest Festival performance towards the end of term. This is a lovely opportunity for you to see all of our wonderful learning coming together and watch your child perform on a big stage.

### Other important information

Outdoor and explorative learning is a key part of our learning in Reception. This allows the children to explore while making connections about the world around them. As Autumn approaches can we please ask that all children have a pair of wellies in school and a waterproof coat that you are happy for them to get messy in.

Next week your child will bring home their own reading record and a reading for pleasure book for you to enjoy together. It is recommended that every child engages with a story 5 times a week for around 10 minutes at home where possible. For the parents who were able to attend our 'Welcome to Reception' parent information session, you will already understand the importance of early reading and the huge, positive impact this has on the children's development. Early reading helps children to achieve in all other aspects of our curriculum and helps them to develop their comprehension skills as well as their communication and language skills. We aim for all children to find a strong love for reading. When the children start to access their Read Write Inc phonics groups, they will also bring home a 'learning to blend' book that matches their phonetic level. Please can we ask that you make a note in their reading record as to how they have engaged with this.

Each day we will take part in a Gross Motor session. In school we do encourage an active uniform so can we also ask that all children have uniform suitable for them to engage fully with the session. You are welcome to leave a pair of trainers in their bags and we can help with changing their shoes before and after the session.

Finally, for safeguarding reasons can we ask that all parents refrain from entering the small Reception cloakroom. It is our utmost priority to ensure that the children enter and leave school safely. As you can appreciate with the space being so small it can become difficult to supervise the children during this time when there are several adults in the space. We understand that some children are still adapting to their transition into Reception and are finding mornings more difficult. Rest assured that once the children are in our care they are nurtured and given the support they need to regulate their emotions so that they are ready for the school day.

As always, we really appreciate your on-going support and look forward to an exciting term ahead!

## Meet our new Early Years Team

Our Early Years team is full of friendly faces and there is always someone to talk to when needed. Here is a list of the staff who will be working in Early Years and are here to help with any queries or concerns.

Mrs Marsh – Early Years Lead.

### **Reception Staff:**

Miss Lannon – Class Teacher

Miss Todd – Class Teacher

Mrs Penn – Teaching Assistant

### **Nursery Staff:**

Mrs Marsh – Early Years Lead and Mighty Oak's Teacher for 30-hour children.

Miss Skilbeck – Class Teacher in Mighty Oaks for morning children.

Mrs Donnelly – HLTA in Mighty Oaks for 30-hour children.

Mrs Wilson – Teaching Assistant in Mighty Oaks for morning children.

Mrs Draper – Teaching Assistant in Little Acorns (2-year-old provision)

Mrs Owens – Teaching Assistant in Little Acorns (2-year-old provision)