

Life in Reception

Life in Reception continues to be very busy at this time of year.

As the weather remains cold, we encourage you to work with your child on becoming more independent by encouraging them fasten up their own coat.

We will be re-introducing our dedicated day for the children to bring their wellies in soon. Look out for a text message which will notify you when this day will be.

Phonics

Before February half term, we will not learn any new sounds but will instead build words which have 4 and 5 sounds such as:

lamp, best, drum, twist, scrap and print.

We will learn these high-frequency words:

come some to

After February half term, we will begin our final unit of the 'Initial Code' and learn the following sounds/different spellings:

sh ch/tch th ck ng wh qu

The children will learn that most of these sounds have "2 letters but just 1 sound". We will be able to write SO many words such as:

shop chip catch thin duck sing when quiz

We will learn these high-frequency words:

there their these what who when



Mathematics

This term, we will have a **HUGE** emphasis on number bonds to 5. We would love it if you watched Jack Hartmann's 'Number Bonds to 5' song on YouTube. We will have fun learning all of the number bonds to 5.

We will also focus on the language of 'more' and 'fewer' and will look at the meaning of one more/one less. We will then look at pairs and will develop our understanding that a pair is a 2. After this, we will look at combining two groups together to find how many there are altogether.

We will be learning how we can arrange a large group of 9/10 items into smaller groups to help us to subitise. For example, "I know it is 9 because I see 3, 3 and 3".

We will represent numbers to 10 on a tens frame. After that, we will begin to look at some number bonds to 10. Finally, we will explore pattern using shapes. We will explore 2D and 3D shapes and look at the properties of these shapes.

Literacy

This half term, we will be looking at the story 'The Little Red Hen'. We will label the characters in the story and write short descriptions such as 'The hen is red.' and 'The bull can run.' As a class, we will innovate the story of The Little Red Hen and instead of making bread, we will change the story so that the Little Red Hen makes pizza.

After half term, we will begin our new story, The Three Little Pigs. We have lots of lovely writing opportunities to look forward to including describing a wolf, making a pig fact file and creating a wanted poster for the wolf.

We will innovate the story of The Three Little Pigs and we will each change the little pig characters into other animals. For example, the characters may change into frogs and they might build three ponds instead of three houses.

Communication and Language

We will support children to follow multi-step instructions to develop their **listening and attention** skills. We will expose children to a range of new vocabulary throughout different lessons and will assess children's **understanding**. The children will be supported to express ideas and experiences clearly **speaking** in full sentences.

Understanding the World

Our unit this half term is 'People Who Help Us'. We will learn about the emergency services and will learn that if we ever need their help, we can dial 999. We will compare the differences of clothes/transport of the emergency services, looking at how they looked in the past and what they look like in the present day. The children will make their own mode of transport for the emergency services by junk modelling. We are looking forward to welcoming some of our parents/carers into school to talk about their own professions. During this unit, we will also learn about a historical figure, Grace Darling, and will learn about the heroic rescue that she carried out many years ago.

After half term, our unit is 'A Bug's Life'. We will begin the unit by talking about the different types of bugs we might find in our local area. We will then go on a bug hunt in our Secret Garden. The children will attempt to draw the bugs and label them. After that, we will then sort minibeasts focussing on categories such as, whether or not they have wings, where they live, how many legs they have etc.

As physical development is so important in Reception, we are going to transform ourselves into different minibeasts and move around the hall to music just like a minibeast. The children will think about habitats where bugs live and will create a habitat for some bugs which we will add into our bug hotel. We will observe plants closely and will practise drawing and labelling them. We will finalise our unit by looking at the lifecycle of a butterfly.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

This term, the children will continue to develop their **self-regulation** skills such as recognising and managing their own emotions. Children will learn to develop strategies to handle challenges and frustrations and identify how they are feeling when faced with a challenge.

As the children continue to **build relationships** with each other, they will focus on how to show empathy and understanding towards one another. Adults will support children to develop their conflict resolution skills.

Children will continue to develop their **sense of self** and will build confidence when trying new activities. We will be continuing to celebrate children's achievements so that they can recognise their own strengths and be proud of themselves.

Expressive Arts and Design

This half term, we will be exploring healthy eating. We will learn about the importance of washing our hands before touching food. We will design and make delicious fruit kebabs. After half term, we will focus our artwork on minibeasts. We will explore using different media and experiment with ways in which we can manipulate different materials.

R.E

In our 'Celebrations' unit, we will talk about various celebrations such as Christmas, birthdays and New Year's Eve. We will listen to 'The Presentation Story' and will re-enact the story together.

We will learn about another faith, Islam. During this unit, we will learn about prayer mats and will learn that Muslims have a special book called the Quran.

In our 'Gathering' unit, we will play games that require the support of others which will show us how we must always support and encourage other people. We will create a liturgical dance together.

In our unit 'Growing' we will focus upon Lent. We will plant cress seeds and focus on what happens over time. We will also talk about Good Friday and get ready to celebrate Easter. The children will decorate an Easter egg and go for an Easter egg hunt.

Key Dates:

NSPCC Number Day: 7th
February

Safer Internet Day: 11th
February

School closes for February half-term: 21st February
(school ends at 3:15pm)

School closes for Easter holidays:
Friday 11th April (school ends at 1:15pm)

Thank you for all your support! 😊