

Reception Class – Little Chalfont Primary School

September 2019



Dear Parents

Welcome to Reception!

The team working with your children in their first year at school will be Mrs West (Class Teacher) with Mrs Jones, Miss Roberts and Mrs Abadee on various days (Learning Support Assistants).

Foundation Stage Curriculum

We start the year by observing and assessing the children on entry to see what they can do. The children are assessed using the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum. The Foundation Stage Curriculum is organised into seven areas of learning. These are:

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Communication and Language
- Physical Development
- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

The Early Learning Goals within each of the above areas are a series of statements outlining what the children are expected to achieve by the end of the Reception Year. Our formative assessments of the children consist of observations conducted throughout the year as the children interact with work and play activities. This information helps us to identify individual strengths and weaknesses and to monitor each child's progress. It will also form the basis for our discussions at Parents' Appointments. The assessments are finalised during the summer term and summarise each child's development at that point. At the end of the year you will receive a written report outlining your child's progress and achievement within each of these seven areas.

Reading

We use the Oxford Reading Tree Scheme which we hope you will all enjoy. The stories are fun and the pictures provide excellent opportunities for discussion.

Once the children are settled into school and we have carried out all our initial assessments, they will bring home a reading book. Please enjoy the stories, discuss the pictures and read the words. Staff/parent helpers permitting, your child will read at school 3 times a week. When you hear your child read at home, please feel free to write in their reading record book in the comments section.

Each week (help permitting) the children will have the opportunity to visit our school library and bring a book home. They will be able to choose their own book although we do talk about library skills and encourage them to choose a book they will enjoy. Please return the library book every week so they can choose a new one.

Sounds - Phonics Sessions

In order to help your child learn their 'Letters and Sounds', we use the interactive 'Phonics Bug' programme to deliver fun and briskly paced phonics sessions. These take place daily and last for about 15 – 20 minutes. In general, the children are taught one new phoneme/grapheme each day

as well as revisiting all phonemes/graphemes previously taught. Please see the attached Phonics sheet which shows in greater detail the timings and content for each of the Phases to be covered this term.

Please help your child practise their sounds at home and to reinforce our learning at school we will send home either a phonic sheet or a handwriting practise sheet each week once the children are settled. Please do spend some time each day helping your child to recognise and write the letter sounds – little and often is best and it really does make a difference to how quickly they acquire and consolidate their sounds. Once they are familiar with some of the sounds, please practise using these to ‘make’ phonetically decodable words for your child to read and write eg out of the first set of sounds s,a,t,p we can make the words ‘sat, at, as, pat, tap’.

Writing

The children need many opportunities to start writing independently and they need to build confidence to have a go at writing. This is called emergent writing and is a very valuable stage in the writing process. Their initial attempts at shopping lists, for example, may only resemble a string of marks on the paper. However, as they acquire phonic knowledge they will begin to make plausible attempts at regular words and will eventually attempt simple sentences. With this in mind it would be helpful to encourage and praise any attempts at emergent writing at home. At school, alongside our adult-led literacy sessions, the children will have many opportunities to write during free-flow time, in role play for instance, they might pretend to “write” telephone messages, menus or lists.

The letter formation sheet attached shows the way we form our letters at school. Once again, any opportunity you have to practise these at home with your child is much welcomed. A good place to start would be the letters in your child’s name. Praise and support is needed. We encourage the children to hold their pencils in a pincer grip. We show them how to hold our chunky triangular pencils between their index finger and thumb and with the middle finger supporting the back of the pencil.

Mathematics

Please see the attached Curriculum Overview for a detailed guide to the concepts we will be covering in Mathematics. By the end of the Reception year most children will be expected to be working confidently with numbers up to 20. This term we will be concentrating on recognising and writing numbers, counting accurately, counting forwards and backwards, making patterns, exploring shape and adding/taking away one. In class we will be doing some mental maths on a daily basis and lots of practical activities and games. The weekly Reception letter to parents will provide further details of what we have been covering week by week to enable you to support and consolidate your child’s learning in Maths at home.

Topics

Our topic for this half term is Ourselves. After half term our topic will be Celebrations. Please find details on the enclosed curriculum overview. Your child will also be cooking once a term, do let us know in advance if your child has any allergies or intolerances.

General Routines

Coming into class without mum or dad is a big step. In the mornings the children line up at the classroom door and wait for the bell. The sooner the children are able to come in on their own or with a friend the more quickly they will settle.

The classroom is very busy first thing in the morning and, consequently, we have very little time to speak to parents as we are bringing children in and settling them down. If you have a message for us please write us a note or leave a message with the office. Please be assured it will reach us! If you need to speak confidentially to us please do not hesitate to make an appointment with

the office. At home time please come to the classroom door facing the playground when you hear the bell and we will call for your child once we see you are there.

Changing for PE is fun but the children do need to learn to manage their own buttons, socks and shoes. Lots of practice with this at home is much appreciated! Please also make sure that everything is **named** otherwise it is impossible for us to trace clothes. PE will take place on Mondays and Fridays, their PE kit will stay in school until half term when it will be sent home to be washed.

At playtime each child will be offered a portion of fruit provided by the school. The choice varies daily and we encourage the children to try what is on offer, but ultimately the decision is left to them. If you prefer to send in fruit from home you may do so. They can bring in a clear, plastic bottle of water to drink and will have access to this throughout the day. Plastic bottles in "House" colours can be purchased from the P.T.A. Once again, please ensure that any items such as bottles and containers are clearly named and please do not allow children to carry their water bottles in their reading bags as they have a tendency to leak!

Helpers

We will need lots of helpers this year, partnership is important. Please either let myself or one of your class reps know as soon as possible if you are able to help regularly. If you are intending to help out in school on a regular basis, you will need to visit the school office and inform the office staff who will talk you through the necessary procedures to obtain DB (criminal record) clearance.

Mon/Wed/Fri	Reading 2 or 3 parents 9.10am
Wednesday	Cooking 1 parent to help at 1.45pm
Library	Day to be confirmed
Sewing	Day to be confirmed

Despite our wonderful selection of school resources, we are always grateful in Reception for the following items: kitchen rolls, boxes, miniature plastic bottles, washing up bottles, buttons, wool, thread, fabric, dressing up resources (beads, bags, hats, shoes etc) and newspapers and anything else you may want to send in. Oh and boxes of tissues, especially through the winter season!

A final request is that all children have a named pair of wellington boots and waterproofs in school permanently as we will be visiting our developing forest school on site and spend some curriculum time outside learning in all weather conditions.

If you have any further questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to ask me. Thank you for your support.

Mrs S West