

Welcome to Diamond Class!



Learning Overview Autumn 1 2023: Reception

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Reception! We hope that you had a lovely Summer break. We have all been really impressed with how well the Reception children have settled in to the new term and it has been lovely getting to know them all. Here is some important information about your child's class:

Morning drop off and end of school collection.

The children should be dropped off at either the gate on the recreation ground or at the front school gate between 8:35am-8:45am. Pick-up time is at 3.10pm, from the Diamonds Class outside area. If your child is going to be picked up from school by someone else, please can you either tell a member of the Diamonds' staff, or contact the school office. We will not let your child go home with another person unless we have your permission.

Literacy

This half term our literacy carpet sessions will be based on books linked to our topic, "Bears". We will be basing many of our activities on the books "We're going on a Bear Hunt", "Biscuit Bear" and "Hibernation Hotel".

Reading: These start as books without any words! It is important for your child to be able to hold a book the right way, turn the pages and to be able to tell a story by looking at the pictures because we want to build their vocabulary around the picture. For example, if you are reading a story about Castles it is encouraging to show and speak about moats, turrets etc. It introduces your child to a whole world of new vocabulary which will support their learning. Regular reading at home is extremely beneficial, daily if possible.

Tortoise words: These are high frequency words that your child needs to learn by the end of the year. They are attached to the back of the reading diary. Please help your child learn these words by practising them daily. There are prizes for reaching Tortoise 10, 20 and 30!

Reading diary: Please ensure that you date and sign the reading diary and feel free to write a comment when you read with your child. We ask that you keep your child's book in their book bag and bring it to school every day.

The children will be individually heard read twice a week, once with a teacher and once with a teaching assistant or parent helper.

Phonics: Once we start to teach your child the phonic sounds, they will bring home a set of flashcards with the sounds on them for you to practice with them at home.

Phonics is taught everyday. The children will learn a picture prompt and an action with each new sound.

Maths:

This half term we are sorting and matching and comparing amounts. We are also comparing size and mass and exploring pattern. We are focusing on vocabulary building so please encourage words such as "longest, shortest, tallest, smallest, heaviest, lightest" and basic names of shapes. We will then be exploring the numbers 1, 2 and 3. In addition to learning taking place in school, your child will continue to have a NUMBOTS account for them to access at home. The log-in details for your child will be attached to your child's reading diary and an additional explanatory letter will be put in their book bag. NUMBOTS improves the children's fluency skills which are critical for good progress in mathematics. Please ask your child to access their account, ideally 5 times a week for about 10 minutes.

Topic:

Our topic this half term is 'Bears'. We are learning about our senses and will be using our senses on our Bear Hunt in the woods. We will also be learning about physical and human geography and finding about Biscuit Bear's holiday as he tours around the UK. We will be using nature in our art and we will also learning about mixing colours. The children have already painted some fantastic self portraits!

We will explore these areas by focusing on the Early Learning Goals: Understanding the World and through our art and music.

P.E.:

P.E. lessons this year will be on Tuesday afternoons each week, and on alternate Fridays. Please send your child into school in their P.E. clothes **every** Tuesday and Friday. If your child wears earrings, please try to remember to take them out for the P.E. days.

Water bottles and snacks:

Please could you continue to make sure that your child brings in a **named** bottle of **water every day**. Please be aware that other drinks, such as juice and squash, are not permitted. We would like to request that water bottles are not put in the book bags - a little leak goes a VERY long way. All children in our class continue to be able to have a free piece of fruit every day. If you wish to provide an extra snack please remember our school policy only allows fresh or dried fruit. Children in Reception are also allowed to receive a free daily milk carton. Please let the school office know, if you have not already, should you wish your child to have this.

Miscellaneous extras:

Our learning takes place as much outdoors as it does indoors, so as the weather becomes colder and wetter, please ensure your child comes to school in a warm waterproof coat so that they can always access our outdoor learning environment. Please name gloves, scarves and hats too! Please also make sure that girls' hair is **ALWAYS** tied back for health and safety reasons. We always stress that hair is not to be fiddled-with, but sometimes very long hair is very tempting, so plaits are perhaps an option!

As ever, if you have any questions as term progresses, or would like to discuss anything with one of us, please come in and see us at the end of the school day, or come to the office to make an appointment if it is more convenient.

Thank you for your support: we are very much looking forward to working with you and your child this year!

Miss Moore and Mrs Rose

Dates for your diary

Diamond class early reading meeting: Thursday 5th October at 2:30pm

Parents evenings: 17th October or 19th October