Reception Curricular Letter

Classes: One and Two **Term: Autumn Term 1**

Dear Parents,

It is a pleasure to welcome you and your children to our vibrant school community. We hope you are as excited as we are about the new school year at St George's Primary School! We are eagerly looking forward to getting to know each child as they embark on their educational journey with us. The Foundation Stage Team is made up of Miss Carole Glover (Class 1 Reception Teacher), Mrs Lisa Towers (Class 2 Reception Teacher), Mrs Jill Hession (Cover Supervisor) and Mrs Lisa Newell (Teaching Assistant) all of whom have a wealth of experience across Early Years Foundation Stage.

In the upcoming half term, our main aim will be getting to know your child as an individual, with a running theme of 'Marvellous Me'. This focus will allow the children to explore their identities, interests, and backgrounds, fostering a sense of belonging and self-awareness. We believe this is a wonderful starting point for them to connect with their peers and engage in collaborative learning experiences. Our overarching Topic for this half term is 'Once Upon a Time' and we will be incorporating familiar stories into our continuous provision. Below we have included some examples of areas we will cover so that you can discuss your child's learning with them.

Important Dates:

Reading and Phonics Parent Meeting – ***Tuesday 29th September 7pm***
Muddy Monday – ***Monday 5th October***
Class Call In – ***Thursday 15th October***
Individual and Family Photographs – ***Wednesday 21st October***

The Half Term Ahead

- Explore seasonal changes.
- Self Portraits using different media.
- Build Houses out of loose parts and natural materials.
- Share books and begin Red Rose Phonics.
- RE – I am Special
- Fundamental skills – catching, throwing, rolling etc.
- Planting and visit to the school's wooded areas.
- **Funky Fingers** Develop fine-motor skills in preparation for writing.

Days to Remember

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Reading Books Changed – *after the reading meeting.*	Physical Education (PE)			Forest Friday – *we will be exploring our school's outdoor provision.*

Reading Meeting

We would like to invite you to a Reading and Maths meeting on ***Tuesday 29th September 7pm.*** During this session, we will share insights into how we teach phonics and mathematics in our classroom. This will be a fantastic opportunity for you to understand our approach and how you can support your child's learning at home. We highly encourage your attendance, as your involvement is key to your child's success.

Phonics

As an introduction to phonics, we will be reviewing oral blending and oral segmenting from phase 1. These two skills are the foundation for all future reading and writing and it's important that we spend time consolidating these skills before we start teaching the children their letter sounds. The skill of oral blending enables the children to push single sounds together so that they can hear whole words. The skill of oral segmenting enables the children to break down words into their smallest single sound components. After consolidating their phase 1 knowledge, we will move on to teaching the first set of sounds in accordance with Lancashire's **Red Rose Phonics.** We will discuss this scheme with you in more detail at the reading meeting (details below). All children will be working for twenty minutes every day in their phonics groups, and they will begin learning the sounds (**phonemes**) of the alphabet. Pupils will learn two - three sounds each week and in groups will practise saying, recognising, writing, and hearing sounds. Once the children know a few sounds, we can start putting them together to create simple CVC words for reading and writing i.e. (sat, pin and tap etc). Each new sound will be placed into your child's phonic book so they can practise at home. Parents are encouraged to discuss sounds and letter names, write lower- and upper-case letters and find objects which begin and end with each sound.

Reading

Pupils will participate in whole class reading sessions with big books, take part in at least one guided group reading session a week and will have opportunities to read and discuss their books individually. Classroom activities will also develop the children's understanding of books and develop the strategies the children need to assist their reading. We will change your child's reading books once a week on a Monday. Please write the title of the book you have read with your child in their reading record (so we can aim to avoid sending the same book home twice) and add comments about your child's reading in the reading record book. We ask that children read at home with an adult every day, if possible, for about ten minutes. If your child reads their own books at home, please feel free to make a note of this in their reading records. Our reading records have a reward system and we ask parents to note when their child/ren have read 10, 20, 50 or 100 books, also 10, 20, 50 or 100 days. When you have made a note in their reading record, we will back this up with a certificate that will be sent home on Thursdays. Your child will also bring home 'tricky word' or 'keyword' bookmarks, words that your child will be expected to recognise by sight. Please keep it in your child's book bag so it can be changed when necessary.

Writing

Pupils will continue to practise writing their names, remembering a capital letter at the beginning only. Each child will be encouraged to write their name on all pieces of work and as often as possible. We will be practising letter formation weekly using various tools such as pens, paint brushes, sand, chalk and play dough. In addition, all children will be participating in activities developed to improve their fine motor skills and their pencil control. Pupils will learn about some of the purposes we have for writing and will be given opportunities to write using their emergent writing and phonic strategies.

Mathematics

We introduced a new Mathematics scheme last year in collaboration with Lancashire through their maths mastery scheme, Red Rose Maths. This term will focus mainly on developing your child's pre-counting skills. This will involve sorting items into groups, identifying similarities and differences and making patterns. We will spend much of our time asking the children to 'say what you see' and modelling giving answers using full sentences such as, 'They are the same because', 'They are different because' and 'I can see…'. On top of this we will begin to

develop your child's ability to subitise amounts which means being able to identify how many items are in a group without counting. This is a skill which precedes counting and only applies to small groups up to an average of 5 objects

The children's mathematical development is furthered through whole class work, through focused activities in small groups with an adult and through play. This work is practical and fun with limited recording at this stage. Sessions will focus on children being provided with practical activities to help them compare, sort, match, sequence, and count. Through such first-hand experience, children will develop an understanding of numbers and use the appropriate mathematical language involved. We will count and calculate, recognise numbers, make sets, sort, and compare objects, and learn names and properties of 2D/3D shapes. We will begin to understand addition as the grouping together of objects and find numbers one more than numbers to ten. As well as a focused numeracy session the children will have opportunities during child-initiated play to play number games and to follow up ideas started during the lesson.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

We want the children to feel happy and confident at school. We will focus on settling them into school and developing their independence in this new setting. They will become more confident and independent when separating from whoever brings them to school and will also gain independence in having lunch and managing their own hygiene. They will learn to follow the class rules and routines and to play co-operatively, imaginatively, and appropriately in the different areas of the classroom and the outdoor areas. As part of our behaviour management policy the school has 'coloured teams' for which each child can get 'team points'. The teams are blue, green, purple and orange. Children achieve points by receiving rainbow rewards which reinforce our Christian values (Compassion, Acceptance, Forgiveness, Honesty, Achieving and Persevering, Self-Control, Good Manners and Being Calm and Peaceful.) On a **Fridays**, achievement certificates are given by each class teacher for consistent effort.

Wellington Boots and Waterproofs

We place a great emphasis on both indoor and outdoor learning. Therefore, please ensure that your child brings appropriate clothing every day, depending on the weather. It would also be helpful if they always have wellington boots and waterproofs in school, as we will be using the outdoors in all weathers. As written on our 'Days to Remember', we will be incorporating weekly 'Forest Friday'. We will explain in our Reading and Maths Meeting a bit more information regarding this. **Forest School will start on Friday 18th September.**

Physical Education

Children do not need to leave a PE kit in school, they are asked to come into school dressed for PE and they can stay in their kit throughout the day. Example of PE uniform includes - red PE top, black shorts, leggings, sports trousers and black trainers. Reception PE day will be on a Tuesday, the children are allowed to come to school in their PE t-shirt.

Seesaw

Seesaw is a simple way for teachers and students to record and share what's happening in the classroom. Your child's teachers can send you photographs, videos, notes, links to websites and can upload documents. This can be used to show you the work your child has done or to share important information. There are two different ways to access Seesaw both as a parent and as a child, either using a laptop/ desktop computer, or through a phone or tablet by downloading the app. Seesaw can be accessed by parents or by children, and each option looks rather different. All comments, photos, videos, and notes added by parents or children will need to be approved by the class teacher before they are published. This is to ensure that safe and appropriate content is published for others to view. *Usernames and passwords will be sent home shortly.*

Statutory Reception Baseline Assessment (RBA)

Prior to children starting their Reception year, we have spent time speaking to preschool practitioners and reading all the documentation sent into school (all about me books, learning journeys etc) so we can gain an understanding of the whole child and where they are at in terms of their learning and development. During the first half term in Reception, all staff use ongoing assessments, observations, and conversations with the child to develop a baseline assessment. This identifies each individual child's starting points in all areas so we can plan experiences to ensure progress. This information is tracked on Seesaw, through observations and evidence on 'wow' boards in class.

We will also be completing the Statutory Reception Baseline Assessment (RBA). This assessment focuses on 'Language, Communication and Literacy,' and 'Mathematics.' The purpose of this is to show the progress children make from Reception until the end of KS2. A speech and language assessment will also be carried out during the baseline period in Reception to identify children's language and communication skills level. This is assessment informs us if the child is at expected for their age, requires intervention, or needs to be referred for specialist support. We work closely with Speech and Language Therapy Services, and we are able to draw on specialist support should it be needed.

Notes for Parents

- Please ensure all belonging are labelled with your child's name, so if lost, they can be easily returned to you.
- The school provides children with a piece of fruit each day.
- Please sign up to 'Cool Milk' if you would like your child to have milk in school. This is free up until your child's 5th Birthday. Please sign up at www.coolmilk.com
- If your child is bringing a packed lunch from home, please remember that **St George's is a 'nut free' school as we have some children who are severely allergic to nuts, so please be mindful of the contents of packed lunches.**
- Children ***must*** bring a drinks bottle to school each day, we request that this is filled with **water only** as per guidance from the DFE.
- We encourage children to explore our topics at home and we love to see the items they find related to topics. Please upload any work or projects that your child undertakes at home to Seesaw as we are trying to limit bringing items into school.
- *In the interest of safeguarding, please can we request that adults do not enter school through the Reception doors. A member of the EYFS team is on the door to greet the children, assist with coats and also ensure their safe arrival into school. We hope you can appreciate that when multiple additional adults are also in the cloakroom, this impacts on our ability to visually account for all children entering the building. If there are any pressing concerns, please wait to speak with a teacher at the door once all the children are safely in the classroom, for all other messages please go to the office.*

Should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us. We are here to support you and your child as we work together in this exciting time of growth and discovery.

Warm regards,

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