# Reception Curricular Letter Autumn 2





Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back after the half-term! We hope you had a lovely break. Our overarching theme is ***'Dark Nights and Bright Lights'.*** This term, we're excited to dive into three engaging new topics: Diwali, where we'll explore the festival of lights; Autumn, where we will be learning about the changing seasons, and Christmas, focusing on festive traditions and the nativity. Each of these topics will be filled with fun activities, so your children will have plenty to share with you at home. As part of our Forest Friday sessions, we would now like to ask that you send your child in warm clothing (leggings, joggers or trousers) appropriate for the outdoors, as the seasons are changing. This will also allow your child to be more comfortable and warm in all weather. Thank you for your ongoing support, and we can't wait to embark on this exciting journey together!

**Key Dates – please keep checking the school calendar and SeeSaw for any changes:**

***Wednesday 25th and Thursday 26th November*** - Parents evenings.
***Friday 13th, 20th and 27th November*** - Non-school uniform and donation to Christmas Fair
***Monday 30th November*** - Christmas Fair
***Thursday 10th December*** - Reception Christmas Carols Cafe 2:30pm
***Monday 14th December*** -Home Learning hand in date
***Wednesday 16th December*** - Christmas Party and Christmas Dinner
***Friday 18th December*** - School Council Christmas Pyjama/Jumper Day

## The Half Term Ahead

Make diva lamps, design mehndi hands and create rangoli patterns.

Commemorate Remembrance Sunday and make poppies.

Act out the story of Rama and Sita

Creating Christmas decorations in Forest School

Create Christmas cards and decorations.

Autumn – Focussing on the Owl Babies and Stickman stories. Noticing the seasonal changes in the world around us

Read the Christmas Story and sing Christmas Carols.

Learn how to keep safe at Bonfire Night and create pictures.

## Days to Remember

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
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| Reading Books changed (Home Reader/Phonics) Please make sure reading books are in bags every day. | Library Books Changed | | Reading Books changed Please make sure reading books are in bags every day. Funky Fingers | PE Forest Friday |

## Literacy

The children will be continuing learning letters and sounds each day in Phonics, following the Red Rose Phonics scheme. Children will have lots of opportunities to practise blending phonemes to read, and segmenting phonemes to spell simple words. We will also begin to practise reading captions and carry on learning to recognise some 'tricky' words. Continued interest in books will be fostered by reading a range of books during story time, guided groups and in individual reading sessions, as well as looking at some non-fiction texts as part of our topic. This half term we continue to deliver 'Funky Finger' activities to help develop fine and gross motor control, which children need to become successful writers. They will be practising letter formation using various tools such as pens, pencils, paint brushes, sand, chalk and play dough. The children will learn about some of the purposes we have for writing i.e. (cards, labels, lists and letters) and will be given opportunities to write using their phonic strategies.

**How can you help at home?**

- Talk to your child at home and model good conversational skills such as listening.
- Talk to your child about the phonemes and 'tricky' words that we have been learning at school.
- Encourage your child to engage in mark making activities, and to hold a pen or pencil using a correct pencil grip.
- Read with your child at home on a regular basis, modelling book handling skills and storytelling language.

## Mathematics

We follow the Red Rose Maths Scheme to develop the children's mathematical knowledge, through whole class work, focused activities in small groups and through continuous provision. We will continue this half term looking at numbers within 10, by reciting, recognising, and writing them. We will continue to provide activities to help children compare, sort, match, sequence, and count. The children will begin to understand addition as the grouping together of objects and find numbers one more than numbers to ten. They will complete simple calculations practically with objects and use the vocabulary associated with addition and subtraction when completing these calculations.

**How can you help at home?**

- Help your child to recognise the numbers 0 to 10 and spot numbers when you are out and about.
- Count a set of objects up to 10, encouraging your child to move each object carefully when counting.
- Practise subitising (help your child to recognise a small number of items incredibly fast).
- Talk to your child as you weigh or measure things at home.

**Reading**

This half term, the children will continue to take home 2 reading books each week. One Phonics Book and one Library Book. Phonics books are changed on a Monday and Thursday.

**Phonic Books:** These books give your child the opportunity to practice the phonemes (sounds) and skills they have been taught in phonics, so they are a really important and should be prioritised out the two. They usually have a numbered sticker in the corner. These are books that the children should read independently to someone at home.

**Library Book:** These books are not decodable and do not match where the children are in phonics. These books are sent home for you to share with your child, discussing a page at a time. These books provide a great opportunity to develop comprehension skills and develop vocabulary and interactive reading skills.

Please make sure that you write in your child's reading record book if you have read or shared the books as this will help the Foundation Stage Team to monitor the strategies your child uses to read.

**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 children are encouraged to drink water during the school day to keep them hydrated. Reception children have access to their water bottlers throughout the day. Water bottles will be sent home each day for a wash and should be returned to school every day.
- 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 including warm coat, hat, scarves and gloves. 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.
- If your child brings a snack or packed lunch from home please remember we are a 'no nuts' school.

As with all our work in reception, topics involve a strong emphasis on practical activities to develop children's learning. Thank you for your support so far and if at any time throughout the year you have questions or thoughts on your child's work or well-being, please feel free to email or come in and see us.

Kind Regards,

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