

# Reception Curricular Letter Autumn 2



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back, I hope you had an enjoyable half-term break. We had a fantastic first half term and the children settled in brilliantly! This newsletter is intended to inform you of what your child will be learning about in school in the half term leading up to Christmas. It will explain what we are doing in the different areas of learning and how you can help your child at home.



This half term our topic is '**Dark Nights and Bright Lights**'.

Class 1 and 2 will be having a Diwali Party on **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November**. We will be tasting food from an Indian banquet on this day and creating Diwali artwork. The children should wear their school uniform as normal on this day. Please inform us of any dietary requirements.

## The Half Term Ahead

Celebrate Diwali with an Indian Banquet

Make diya lamps, design mendhi hand patterns and create ranaoli patterns

Commemorate Remembrance Sunday and make poppies

Write Christmas tags, wish lists, letters to Santa and Christmas Cards

Create Christmas cards and decorations

Act out the story of Rama and Sita

Talk about seasonal changes and why animals hibernate

Read the Christmas Story and be part of the Infant Nativity

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

## Days to Remember

### Monday

PE

Reading Books changed  
(Home Reader/Phonics)

### Tuesday

### Wednesday

Reading Book changed  
(Home Reader only)

### Thursday

### Friday

Funky Fingers

Reading Books changed  
(Home Reader/Phonics)

## Literacy

The children will be learning sounds and letters each day in phonics and they will be practising letter formation using various tools such as pens, pencils, paint brushes, sand, chalk and play dough. Pupils 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 emergent writing and phonic strategies. We will learn all of the remaining single letter phonemes before beginning to learn some digraphs (two letters which make one sound e.g. 'sh'). 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.

## Funky Fingers

This half term we continue to deliver 'Funky Finger' activities. It is a programme which develops fine and gross motor control, which children need in order to become successful writers. Children undertake an activity differentiated to suit their needs. Each activity continues for one week and takes approximately ten minutes. Activities take place to music and include 'dough disco', threading, balancing marbles, peg challenges and moving water using pipettes.

## How you can 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 (phonemes can be found on stickers in the front of their reading records).
- 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

The children's mathematical development is furthered through whole class work, through focused activities in small groups with an adult and through play. During the term, we will develop children's knowledge of numbers up to 20. Children will practise reciting, recognising and writing numbers. 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. They will use the language associated with measure when comparing size and length and begin to use non-standard units to measure the length of objects.

### How you can help at home?

- Help your child to recognise the numbers 0 to 10 then 0 to 20 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.
- Help your child to notice shapes within their local environment.
- Talk to your child as you weigh or measure things at home.

### 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 at all times as we will be using the outdoors in all weathers.

### Snack

The extra piece of snack your child can bring for mid morning snack must be either fruit or vegetables (clearly labelled) - this is optional as we already provide a healthy snack. **St George's is a 'nut free zone' as we have some children who are severely allergic to nuts, so please be mindful of the contents of packed lunches.**

### Home Learning

Home Learning Menus will be sent home at the beginning of each half term. Your child should complete every Maths, Literacy and RE activities over the half term and choose 2 additional activities from the other areas. **Home Learning books should be returned on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December and we will share our work on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December.**

Bug Club <http://www.bugclub.co.uk/>



Don't forget, you can access online e-books for your child to read at home on Bug Club. The books have been selected for your child, by your child's class teacher, according to the level they are reading. Usernames and passwords are stuck in their reading record, if you are having trouble logging on please come and see us.

### Notes for Parents

- Please ensure all belonging are labelled with your child's name, so if lost, they can be easily returned to you.
- Please ensure your child has a school PE kit on their peg at all times. We will send them home each half term.
- The children are encouraged to bring certificates and medals achieved outside of school on a Friday to share in class.

As with all our work in the Reception class, the 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 may have questions or thoughts on your child's work or well-being, please feel free to come in and see a member of the Foundation Stage Team.

Kind Regards

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