

Reception Newsletter

April 2017

Welcome back

We hope you enjoyed the holidays and are looking forward to another busy term in Reception.

We welcome three university students: Miss Al-Sader (RN) and Miss Gishen (RW) who will be with us until 16th June and Miss Kennedy (RH) who will be with us until 5th July. All three students are training to become teachers. We are sure they will enjoy their time with us.

There are two other members of staff who joined our team recently (you might have met them already): Miss Picton our Teaching Assistant across all three classes and Miss Matheou who works in Reception on Thursdays and Fridays.

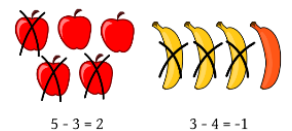
Class news

The children enjoyed learning about sunflowers last term. We hope their sunflower plants are starting to grow. Your child is welcome to bring their plant back to school to plant in the school garden if you wish.



For the next two weeks, we will be focusing on the story 'No Dinner'. The story is based on the Indian folk tale, 'The Old Woman and the Red Pumpkin'. The children will gain a deep understanding of the story through various activities. They will learn about the story structure (beginning, middle and end); they will retell the story through role play; they will create a story map of the story events; and they will create their own versions of the story. Please ask your child about the story at home so they can tell you what they have learnt.

In maths, the children will be learning about subtraction. They will learn that subtraction means to 'take away', they will learn how to count back from a number using objects. Singing number rhymes (such as 10 green bottles) is a good way to learn basic subtraction skills.



Reading Books



Please make sure you sign or make a comment in your child's purple Reading Diary so their teachers know what books your child has read. Your child cannot receive a new reading book unless this has been done. There are useful guidelines inside the front and back cover of each reading book which you can refer to when reading with your child. **Please keep your child's reading book and diary in their book bag every day.**

Planting and gardening

We hope to improve our garden and planting area now spring is here. If you are a keen gardener and can spare some time to help the children with the gardening, please do let us know.



Punctuality

Please ensure your child **arrives at 8.50 am every day**. We expect all children to be in class ready for their learning at this time. It is also very important that you **collect your child on time at 3.15pm**. All Reception staff have to attend meetings after school every day and it is very inconvenient if the staff have to take children to the office because parents/carers are late. If you have older children in the school, please collect them **after** you have collected your child from Reception. It can be upsetting for a child to regularly be the last one left after all other children have gone home.

School Uniform and Outdoor Clothing

Some children have been coming to school without the correct uniform:

- Trousers, pinafores and skirts must be **grey**, not black.
- Tights and socks must be white or grey.
- Shoes must be plain black.
- Children **must** bring a waterproof coat with a hood to school even on warmer days as the weather can change throughout the school day.
- All items including coats, hats, bags and spare clothes must be **labelled** with your child's name. If your child loses an item of clothing and it has no name on it, you will most likely not receive it back as it cannot be identified.
- Jewellery is not allowed; this includes necklaces, bracelets, earrings (except for studs) and watches.
- Hair accessories should be kept to a minimum (e.g. plain headbands). Elaborate (flowery/shiny) hair clips and bands are not necessary at school.



Junk Modelling

Please can you bring in **small items** for our junk modelling stock (e.g. **small** boxes, tubes, pots, egg boxes). Please make sure the items are clean and **have not contained nuts or nut products**.



Illness and absences



Some children are regularly missing school and this will inevitably affect their learning progress as they miss important class lessons and social interactions with their peers. Please only keep your child off school if they are **genuinely ill**.

It is important for your child's health and wellbeing that they get a good night's sleep, the NHS recommend that 4-5 year olds have **11-11.5 hours** sleep per night.

To reduce the spread of cold/flu viruses, **please avoid giving your child Calpol or similar medication to bring a high temperature down in order to send them into school**. Please only send your child to school when his/her temperature is normal without medication.



Spare Clothes

Please remember to bring spare uniform and underwear in a named bag for your child (**including socks and pants**). They can keep the bag on their peg. We have very few items of spare uniform for the children, therefore if your child becomes wet or soiled and there is no spare uniform left, we might need to call you to bring some spare clothes into school for your child.



Sweet and Toys

We have noticed that some children are **still** bringing sweets and/or toys into school in their book bags. **For obvious reasons, children are not allowed to bring sweets, stickers or toys to school**. Please check your child's book bag if they are likely to put these items in without your knowledge!



Thank you all for your continued support

The Colindale Primary School Reception Team