

# Reception Newsletter

December 2018

## Class news

The children have had an excellent first term in Reception. We are very pleased with their progress in all areas of learning, they are a fantastic year group and we are very proud of them.

As you can imagine, this first term has been extra busy! The children have made lots of new friends, they have become much more independent and are enjoying all activities provided.

In between rehearsals for the Christmas song performance, the children have learnt about the festivals of Hanukkah and Christmas and have talked about similar religious and cultural celebrations such as Diwali, Eid and Chinese New Year.

They have been enjoying the daily phonics and maths lessons and are progressing very well with their reading, writing and counting skills.

Thank you to all the parents who are supporting their children to achieve the next steps in their learning at home.

## Home Learning folders

Please remember to check your child's book bag every Friday for details of the new phonemes and tricky words we are learning in class. Over the holidays, your child can practice their phonics on websites such as [phonicsplay.co.uk](http://phonicsplay.co.uk) or [www.letters-and-sounds.com](http://www.letters-and-sounds.com). We have noticed some children are starting to use letter names instead of the phonemes. We do not teach the letter names at present, as this can cause confusion when the children are trying to read or spell words. Please do not worry if your child does not know the letter names and please do not teach your child the letter names. Thank you for your co-operation with this.



## Tapestry Online Journals



There are still a few parents who have not accessed Tapestry, or who have not looked at their child's journal since they have started reception. Please ensure you tell us if you cannot access Tapestry. We are sure you will be very pleased when you see your child's online learning journal!

Thank you to the parents who are accessing their child's journal, especially those who have replied to observations or have uploaded their own photos and videos we really appreciate the effort you have made. We would love to see more home photos or videos of your child's learning. If you have any queries about Tapestry, please see your child's class teacher.

## Open Lessons

Thank you to all the parents who came to our open phonics lessons, it was lovely to see so many of you there. We hope you found the lesson helpful and have a clearer understanding of how we teach phonics in reception. We will hold a maths open lesson in the spring term.

## Christmas Song Performance

Thank you to those who came to watch the Christmas Song Performance. The children sang so enthusiastically, we hope you are as proud as we were. Their clothes looked fantastic, thank you for your help in making the performance a real success.



# REMINDERS

## 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.

Some children are also very tired at school, 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.

## Punctuality

Please ensure your child **arrives at 8.50am 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.

### 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.

### 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.
- If your child wears boots to school, they must bring a pair of black shoes to change into. Coats need to be **warm and waterproof with a hood**.
- All items including coats, hats, gloves, scarves, bags and spare clothes must be **labelled** with your child's name.

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).



### Sweet and Toys

We have noticed that some children are bringing sweets and/or toys into school.

**For obvious reasons, children are not allowed to bring sweets, stickers or toys to school.** Please check your child's book bag and pockets if they are likely to put these items in without your knowledge.

Please also check your child's pockets and bag when they leave school as we have noticed some of our toys and small objects such as shiny pebbles and jewels have gone missing!

Thank you for your continued support.

Enjoy the holidays.

Merry Christmas to the families who are celebrating and a Happy New Year to you all!

Miss Brain, Miss Dark, Miss Dirwai, Mrs Dziwicz, Mrs Fumagalli,  
Mrs Hurn, Mr Jeki, Mrs McDonough, Miss Toma and Miss Whiter.

**The Reception Team**