



Out and About



This term we will be working with the Road Safety Team who will come into school to share with us ways in which to keep safe when crossing the roads. We then hope to use our safety skills when walking to the local library.

Our children have loved waiting for our 'Mystery Readers' to arrive in school and we are currently working through the list of people who have already volunteered. If you would like to come into school to share a story book with some of our Reception children then please let us know. You will certainly receive a warm welcome.

Green fingered parents and grandparents we still need you! We would love to invite you into school to work alongside our staff and children in the Environmental Area so please let us know if this is something you would like to help with.

Please remember to look at our class page on the school website and our Facebook page. We will be updating these with exciting photos and news.



Dates for the Diary



21st January - homework progress checks

30th January - Dental survey in Reception (parents of children involved have been notified)

5th February - Safer Internet Day

5th February - Valentines Disco

12th February - Parent Consultations

13th February - Parent Consultations

Half Term - Monday 18th February - Friday 22nd February

7th March - World Book Day

15th March - Comic Relief - Red Nose Day

Easter Holiday—Monday 8th April— including bank holiday Monday 22nd April

Back to school Tuesday 23rd April

Please note, Mrs Cassidy works four days. When she is not in school on a Thursday, Ms David-John will teach class RCy. The children are familiar with Ms David-John as they worked with her in Nursery and continue to see her when both Nursery and Reception are accessing our Outdoor Area.



If you have any questions or queries please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Cassidy, Miss Cavanagh, Mrs Walton, Mrs Guyan, Mrs O'Hara or Ms David-John.

Curriculum Overview



Reception



Spring Term



Welcome



The Reception Team would like to wish you all a 'Happy New Year' and offer you a warm welcome to the Spring Term. This is our Curriculum Overview that you will receive every term in school. It will give you an outline of our learning in Reception and some ideas about how you can help at home. We hope you find it useful.



We are learning...



Literacy

This term we will be continuing our 'Read Write Inc' programme. Your child will revise the sounds that they learnt last term and use this sound knowledge to read and write words. When ready, they will begin to access Read Write Inc reading books. In addition to following the RWI programme, we will carry out small group writing sessions with a focus stemming from the interests of our children. These sessions will look closely at writing simple sentences and using capital letters and full stops. Please look out for some of our creative hooks to learning this term! Some will be very difficult to miss!

During the term we will also explore a range of carefully chosen stories and non-fiction texts which will support the children's language and literacy skills and their understanding of the world around them. In turn, these texts will encourage role play and a love of reading.

Mathematics

This term we will be continuing to develop our counting skills and introducing the children to teen numbers and language linked to addition and subtraction. We will encourage the children to use simple number sentences to represent and record their addition and subtraction work.

We will also begin to compare quantity of amounts using language such as more than and less than, extending the children to know what two more and two less than a given number is. In addition to this, we will explore capacity in a range of different ways and link measuring to our daily routines.

We will work with the children to continue to develop their number formation in all lessons.



Our Curriculum



Our curriculum is very much based on the interests of our children and we therefore plan activities which we know the children will love!

This term we will be taking advantage of the spring weather by exploring our Environmental Area. Mrs O'Hara is our Early Years and Foundation Stage Forest School lead and together we have planned a number of forest activities which will enable the children to explore both as a group and independently. Some of the activities planned include; making bird feeders, building dens and using the natural materials found in the area to make and create pictures. When in the Environmental Area, all children will be provided with a full outdoor kit. We do, however, ask you to ensure your child has their wellies in school at all times and that they have a hat and scarf. Miss Cavanagh's class will complete their Forest School sessions on a Tuesday morning up until half term and Mrs Cassidy's class will begin their sessions after half term. Other sessions at this time will be music and PE, both of which will incorporate other areas of the curriculum such as Maths and Literacy.



Creative Homework



At Dunston Hill we set Creative Homework tasks as a way of providing our children with opportunities to continue their learning outside of the classroom in a fun and engaging way. In Reception, we plan activities that can be completed alongside members of your family as a way of providing you with quality time to engage with your child and talk to them about their learning. We plan 10 different tasks and we encourage the children to complete a minimum of 4 tasks. These tasks can include things such as creating a picture of something they have seen, learning to tie shoe laces or doing something helpful at home. Children have recently brought home their spring homework tasks. Progress check dates show when we would like to see any tasks that have been completed.



How to Help at Home



Your support is always appreciated and we continue to encourage you to support your child in becoming more independent. Practising routines at home really helps when they come to do them in school. For example; fastening coats and shoes independently and changing clothes.

Sharing stories with your child at home will help them to develop their listening, concentration and language along with their imagination, understanding and love of books. On a weekly basis, children choose their own reading book to bring home and share with you.

Practising word cards or Read Write Inc ditty books— children have green word cards which link to the sounds they have been learning in school. Those who are ready also have Read Write Inc ditty books to share with you. Enjoy having a story read to you.

Practising counting up to 20 and beyond and recognising numerals in everyday life.

Your child will also have their own 'Home Learning Journey'. You can use this book with your child to tell us about what they have been doing at home through photographs or pictures. Back in class, we will use these books as a stimulus for our quality conversations.



Special Requests



- Please bring your child to the Reception class gates rather than bringing them into the cloakrooms. We will be there to meet and greet you all with a smile and we welcome any news to be passed to us.
- Please ensure all clothing, including PE kits and wellies are clearly named.
- PE kits need to be in school from the beginning of the term and can stay in school until half term holidays, when they can be taken home to be washed. PE day is Tuesday.
- The children will be exploring the Mud Kitchen and larger scale Water Area in our Outdoor Area this term and will need a named pair of wellies to be left in school.
- All children need a named water bottle in school.
- Please ensure that children have their Reading Diary and reading books in school on their assigned reading day (there is a sticker in their diary).
- We collect a donation of 50p a week or £3 per half term per child for our Reception fund. This helps us to enhance the curriculum and supports us in following our children's interests. Please allow your children to put the money in our money box.