



Out and About



This term we hope to invite service people such as police officers into school to help children become familiar with their role.

Our children love to listen to stories and we love to make these special times even more exciting through our 'Mystery Readers'. If you would like to come into school to share a story book with some of our Reception children then please complete the accompanying letter.

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

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



Dates for the Diary



Friday 27th September - MacMillan Coffee Morning

Monday 7th October—Dr Bike in school to check children's bikes

Wednesday 9th October—Autumn Disco

Tuesday 15th October—Parent Consultations

Wednesday 16th October— Parent Consultations

Monday 21st October— Friday 25th October —Half Term Holiday

Friday 15th November—Nasal flu Vaccination

Monday 25th November—School closed—Occasional Day

Tuesday 10th December—EYFS Christmas Production Event

Wednesday 11th December—Christmas Dinner

Friday 13th December—Christmas Fayre

Wednesday 18th December- Grand Prize Raffle Draw

Monday 16th December—Reception Christmas Party

Tuesday 17th December—Service at Church for children and teachers

Friday 20th December—Last day of term

Please note, Mrs Cassidy works four days. When she is not in school on a Thursday, Mrs Bootland will teach class RCy. Many of the children are familiar with Mrs Bootland 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 Gregory, Mrs Guyan, Mrs Walton or Mrs Bootland.

Curriculum Overview



Reception

Autumn Term



Welcome



The Reception Team would like to offer a warm welcome to all Reception starters and their families. This is our Curriculum Overview that you will receive every term in school. It will give you an outline of our learning in Reception each term and some ideas about how you can help at home. We hope you find it useful.



We are learning...



Settling in

This term is all about us getting to know your child, encouraging them to make new friendships and form good relationships with all members of staff they will be working with. Over the last few weeks, we have been thrilled with how well all of our children have settled in and they have impressed us with their enthusiasm and creativity. Throughout the year, we will be encouraging your child to try new things and we will support them in becoming confident in approaching new learning experiences.

Literacy

This term we will be starting the 'Read, Write, Inc' phonics programme which will include your child being introduced to a sound a day. We will look at the sound, hear and say words that begin with that sound and write the sound. Every night, your child will come home with a sticker on which will have the sound that they have learned that day. Please encourage your child to recognise and use the new sounds. We will also continue to encourage the children to recognise their name and write a name label for their work.

Mathematics

This term we will be developing our counting skills and introducing the children to 'Hey Numbers' and 'Digit Dance' to reinforce their counting skills. We will be using 'Numberblocks' to support our teaching and deepening our knowledge of numbers. We will also be exploring quantity and amounts. Autumn is a great time of year to explore different mathematical ideas as we can use the natural materials that children love to collect to make arrays, patterns and pictures.



Our Curriculum



We believe that our children are entitled to a diverse, challenging and effective curriculum that encourages active learning and responds to individual needs. Through carefully planned activities, we acknowledge our children's natural enthusiasm and their need to be active learners; we build on their previous experiences and support and develop their thinking and learning to ensure appropriate experiences and activities across all areas of learning and development.

When planning, we follow the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile which tracks the development of our children across 17 areas of learning. In Reception, as well as engaging with discrete adult-directed learning opportunities, we focus on the interests of the children and the way in which they engage with activities and others around them. We record the progress of our children in the form of an online learning journey. This will include photographs of your child and their work along with notes detailing the learning that has taken place. Parental access will be given in the New Year.



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. Your child will be given their Creative Homework book and tasks in October along with dates showing when we would like to see the tasks that have been completed.



How to Help at Home



Your support is always appreciated and at this important time of the year, routines are key to your child's development. We would be very grateful if you could practise some routines with your child at home, such as: fastening coats and shoes, using the toilet and washing their hands independently and changing clothes (this will be a great help when changing for PE) 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. Please enjoy sharing the books we send home.

Practising sounds that come home - for example; thinking of words that begin with the letter and looking for the letter in and around your home or whilst out and about.

Practising counting up to 20 and beyond and recognising numerals in everyday life. For example on doors, buses, in shops etc. We will look at a range of shapes and patterns during Reception and working with your child to spot such items when out and about is always good fun.



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 will not be needed until after half term
- This term the children will be exploring the Mud Kitchen in our Outdoor Area and take part in Forest School sessions. Please ensure your child has a named pair of wellies that can be left in school. Warm coats, hats and gloves would be useful as the weather becomes colder.
- All children need a named water bottle in school.
- Your child now has a Reading Diary detailing which day they will read on and a reading book they will bring home to share with you. Please ensure that children have their diary and reading book in school on their reading day and that any reading at home is noted in their diary. Books will be changed weekly.
- 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 contribute if you can.