All About Reception Meeting Notes - 2020

* **Curriculum plans for parents:** The plans contain information about the learning objectives that will be covered in class and are sent home by e-mail every term. They are also on the school website in Reception Class’s area along with other useful links to websites suitable for 4-5 year olds.
* **Timetable:** In line with recommendations we aim for the children to be able to spend 50% of each day completing teacher-led activities and 50% of each day completing their own child-initiated activities. There is an equal weighting between the 7 areas of learning and most learning activities are completed practically with an emphasis upon learning through play. The children also have the opportunity to use both the indoor and outdoor classroom each day and in all weathers. We use a daily visual timetable in class, so that the children can see what will be happening throughout each day. As we finish each activity, we take it off of the timetable so they are aware of what we are doing next, and how many activities we have left to do before we finish each day.
* **Wellbeing**: In addition to the 7 areas of learning, we also have a 15-20 minute ‘wellbeing session’ after registration in the morning and afternoon, the same as the rest of the school. This session focuses on one of the 5 ways to wellbeing: connect, give, be active, take notice, and keep learning.
* **Learning Folders:** The children each have a learning folder in the classroom that will store any pictures, paintings, recording of learning activities, records, observations and learning diaries during the year. You are very welcome to look through these with your child at any time once school returns to normal and discuss their achievements together. We include parents in the process of recording learning, by usually giving out ‘wow’ cards for you to complete when your child has impressed you by showing you a new skill or talent e.g. counting to 30, riding their bike, writing their name, getting dressed without help, recognising their sounds or tricky words etc. As we cannot send wow cards home at the moment, we will send email electronic copies home which we ask you email back into us which we will print off and share with your child and the class in school. These ‘wow’ cards will then be included in your child’s learning diary.
* **Reading:** Currently reading books are not being sent home but they will be after we have started to learn our phonic sounds next term. We will send them home on a Monday and a Thursday and ask they get returned on a Thursday and a Monday for changing if they have been read 3 times at home. We will not be sending a reading record book home but will be filling them in at school to keep a record of what your child has read. We will ask your child about the story and then quarantine the books for 72 hours before they go to a new child. A library book should be coming home every Friday, so please ensure that your child has their library book in school on a Friday. These library books are also then quarantined for 72 hours. The children will independently read books based on words that can be read phonetically and integrate well with the synthetic phonics scheme which we follow in school. The children who benefit the most read every day at home to an adult. If you find your child is tired, it is fine to take it in turns to read a page with you so that they still get their regular daily practice session. Please aim to also read your child a bedtime story every night, this can be their own choice of book, their school library book or a book from the Banwell Library Bus which visits the car park opposite school every other Thursday afternoon currently, from 2.40-4.30pm where it is completely free to join in order to borrow the books. They are currently offering a click and collect service. It would be lovely if every child in Reception joins the library in preparation for the annual Summer Reading Challenge and to make use of this resource throughout the year. Once your child has their free library card, they can borrow books from any North Somerset library including The Campus library (near Morrisons - Highlands Lane, Locking Castle, BS24 7DX) which is open Monday to Friday 2-4pm. Winscombe Library opening times are currently: Tuesday and Thursday 9.30am-12.30pm, and 2-4pm / Saturday 9.30am-12.30pm. Books can also be renewed online making this service even easier to use.
* **‘Sound Pots’:** The children will all have a pot sent home to learn how to recognise the phonetic sounds of the alphabet, and the letter blends that they make when there are 2 or more letters together e.g. ‘sh’. The sounds will be added to on a weekly basis after they have been introduced in class. When the children bring them home with the first 4 sounds inside, try to get them to recognise them, and then use them to make short words like ‘sat’ ‘pat’ ‘at’ ‘taps’ etc. and show them how we use the sounds to build up and read these words. This should be a quick daily activity, and if your child does not recognise the sound, then tell them the sound and move on quickly to the next one. As more sounds are added each week, continue to use them to practise the skills of blending and segmenting words that we are focusing on throughout the year, but by developing more challenging words. Due to Covid we do not ask your child to bring the pots in, we will send the new phonemes home on a Friday for you to add to the pot at home.
* **Sight Words:** We will also add examples of ‘sight words’ that we would like the children to learn to read by sight, to their sound pots later on in the year, e.g. ‘the’ ‘said’ etc.
* **Literacy:** Examples of these learning activities include a daily phonic session, the children sharing big books as a class, completing phonic work and reading unseen texts in small groups with us (guided reading). We try to read at least 2 stories to the class daily. This does have an effect upon the time that is available for us to hear children read individually. It is therefore crucial that the children receive this support at home.
* **Mathematics:** Examples of these learning activities include whole class circle time activities, playing counting games and singing number rhymes, and small group work. To help support your child with numeracy, please look at the maths resources emailed out with these notes. The pack states the expectation for where each child should be by the end of the year ready for Year 1 and has resources you can play at home with them to help support their learning. In addition, starting after half term, each week a piece of maths homework will be put on our class page on the e-schools learning platform which will reinforce the learning going on in class. It will usually be in the form of a game or activity.
* **P.E.:** This year the children will be taught P.E. on Tuesdays so please continue to send your child into school on Tuesday in their PE kits. We do have 30 minutes of PE daily as part of a government initiative which we teach in one of our two daily Well Being sessions. Stud earrings can be worn for P.E. but we have to cover them with Micropore tape, so you may prefer to remove your child’s earrings on P.E. day. (Stud earrings and watches are the only types of jewellery that should be worn to school). We also try to use the bikes and trikes daily where possible.
* **Personal, Social and Emotional Development:** The children will be introduced to the ideas of growth and change, and also to the concepts of male and female through our sex education programme during our class project on animals in the summer term. We use the Jigsaw scheme to teach all Personal, Social and Emotional activities as well as our twice daily wellbeing sessions focusing on positive mental health. Hopefully your children will meet Jerrie the Cat and Jenie the Jigsaw piece who are our soft toy characters from the Jigsaw scheme, but currently we are not allowed to let the children have any soft toys in class.
* **Tuck:** Once the children are five, they have to purchase their own milk, or if they do not like milk, they can have their water bottle that they bring in from home. This drink needs to be a separate drink from the one in their lunch box. At tuck time the children may also bring a piece of fruit or a vegetable to eat. They will also be given a piece of fruit or a vegetable to try during the afternoon, which the school provides.
* **Houses:** Your child has been placed in either Red (London), Blue (Rome), Yellow (Tokyo) or Green (Prague) house. They will be in the same house group as any siblings they have in school and will work together for events such as Sports Day, hopefully, in the summer.
* **Paired reading:** Currently we are unable to have paired reading as we are unable to mix bubbles. Hopefully it will take place on a Friday afternoon at some point this academic year. Your child will then be paired with a Year 3 reading partner of their choice, and they will take it in turns to share their reading books with each other, with the Year 3 child offering support and encouragement.
* **Pupil Support Team:**

Mrs Pocock (Headteacher) is heading up the Pupil Support Team currently and once a new Deputy Head is appointed, he or she will then lead the Pupil Support Team.

This is made up of a Higher Level Teaching Assistant - Mrs Jan Watson, Teaching Assistants Mrs Mo Parker and Mr Mark Fuller and the Learning Mentor Mrs Jodine Arnold. They may work with your children for a variety of reasons; to accelerate academic progress/develop life skills/support managing feelings/ medical needs and SENd. They liaise closely with your child’s class teacher and may work with your child for a one-off session or a period of weeks. They also work with parents/carers. If you would like more information, or you have any questions, please speak to Mrs Pocock.

* **e-schools:** We are hoping to avoid any closure for the Reception class due to our great hygiene and comprehensive risk assessment protocols, but if we do, rest assured we have some activities in place ready to go, if needed, to support learning at home and we will be using the e-schools platform mentioned in the maths section of these notes for you and your child to access this. We would strongly encourage you to see if you can log in and use this now, in case it is needed, and then if you have any difficulties, or questions about this, we can help you with this now.
* **Aim:** We aim to make Reception Year an enjoyable and fun start to school life. We aim to develop a love of learning through play and friendship. If a child is happy, they will learn. From time to time children can ‘fall out’ and we may not always be aware. Please do come and talk to us if you have any concerns so we can try and sort things out quickly by working together in support of your child. Our door is always open (unfortunately not literally, at present), so please feel free to phone or send an email to the school office that will be forwarded to us, or email us directly.

Thank you for attending this meeting online today, we really appreciate your support.