



RECEPTION NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2 2020

Welcome back! We hope you had a wonderful half term holiday and are looking forward to the busy half term ahead.

CURRICULUM

Our themes for our learning across all areas of the curriculum this half term are:

'BEARS' and 'CHRISTMAS'

Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSED)

This half term Reception will be 'Celebrating Difference.' As a class we will be thinking about what makes them special and unique. We will look at different families and homes from around the world, celebrating different cultures and customs. If you celebrate any particular customs or festivals in your family please do send a couple of pictures or details to the class email, so we can talk about these in class!

Physical Development (PD)

The class will continue to develop their gross and fine motor skills through a variety of activities. Please encourage your child to make marks, draw and begin to write at home. Pattern and letter formation sheets will be sent home on Thursday (from Thursday 12th November) and need to be returned to school on the following Wednesday.



PE lessons will be taught by Miss de Souza on a Thursday. Please ensure your child comes into school in PE kit and trainers every Thursday morning (they should not bring a change of uniform). On other days of the week we have a shorter period outside on the 'big playground', where the Reception children participate in formal and informal playground games, which support and extend the skills we are learning in PE, but there is no need to wear trainers or PE kit for these sessions. This half term in PE pupils will focus on movement and ball skills. They will recap responding to perform movements learnt on command, send and stop objects in different ways. In addition they will practise dribbling balls using hands and feet and play different aiming games.

Please continue to encourage your child/ren to be independent with their self-care, so they can take their coats and jumpers on and off, putting the sleeve the right way round by themselves, and working towards zips and buttons. Usually we would be encouraging children to change for PE increasingly independently in school, but because of COVID we aren't able to do this yet - please encourage your child's development with dressing themselves independently at home.

Communication and Language (C&L)

Our Power of Reading books this half term are 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt' and 'Biscuit Bear.' Through these stories we encourage using spoken and written language in their play and learning. The class will bring 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt' to life by acting it out through role-play, dance and music. The class will then be joining 'Biscuit Bear' on his adventures in the kitchen by designing and creating their very own 'Biscuit Bear.' This will encourage them to talk about picture books using prediction, asking relevant questions and making connections with their own experiences.

Literacy

The class will continue to learn phonemes (single letter sounds - the smallest unit of sound) and begin to learn digraphs (a combination of two letters representing one sound, as in *ch* and *ee*) through the Jolly Phonics program. We will continue to send home the sound cards weekly on Thursdays. Please attach these to their 'Sound Books' and practise them daily at home, and practice blending sounding words together to make simple words. Please let us know how they are getting on with their reading at home via the Reading Record Book. Do see Miss de Souza's email from the week of 19th October, for further phonics guidance and support. A virtual workshop on how to support your child with their reading at home will be taking place later in the term - details will be coming home soon.

Maths

In our number work we will be continuing to create a secure foundation for the children's mathematics. Children are learning to compare different amounts using the words 'the same' 'more', and 'fewer' (nb not 'less!'). We will then look at changes to amounts - one more and one less. In our shape, space and measure work we will be looking at simple time - so sequencing within the day and the week. We will also be looking at capacity and weight.

A few of you have asked how you can support your child's mathematics at home. The best way is to investigate number problems in real life - so spotting amounts of objects around home, and exploring how this amount is made up and what could change. For instance you could look at the fruit in the fruit bowl and ask questions: How many are there? Are there more/fewer bananas or apples? How many if there is one less? You could then move the fruit into different groups etc. Playing simple board games as a family is a really super way of building up mathematical knowledge.

Understanding the World

Through our topic, 'Bears' the class will be finding out about lots of different types of bears and their habitats. They will use information books and iPads to compare different bears, thinking about their similarities and differences.

RE

Our focus for this half term is to learn about and celebrate 'Christmas.' Through the Nativity story the class will learn about the meaning and importance of Christmas.

Expressive Art and Design

In music Mrs Le Prevost will focus on patterns this half term, with bears as our inspiration. The children will explore how we can create rhythms using body percussion and instruments. Starting out with copying simple clapping rhythms, the children will create their own patterns and start to record them using their own notation. We will also be developing their sense of pitch and pulse through singing and playing games.

In Art Mrs Adams will be explore painting and printing with the class. They will develop their understanding of the role of an illustrator looking at picture books with bears e.g. Winnie the Pooh, Paddington Bear, Can't You Sleep Little Bear? And then create their own bear images.

RECEPTION ROUTINES AND INFORMATION

There have been some alterations to the daily and weekly routine.

DROP OFF AND PICK UP

We will meet at the main playground gate (the same gate as last half term) at **08.55** to line up, so we can formally start the day at **09.00**. The end of the day is now **15.20**. The timings have been adjusted so it is closer together for those with siblings. There is now only a 5 minute gap between classes coming out - so to aid social distancing can I ask you to time your arrival so you don't arrive earlier than 5 minutes before the advertised time please. **Please can I ask you to maintain social distancing whilst in the queue, to wear a mask, and to move away from the gate as soon as possible after drop off and pick up - thank you so much for your ongoing support with this in these strange times.**

SCHOOL BAGS

Children should bring in their bags on Wednesday morning - they will leave these in school overnight and they will take them home on Thursday afternoon.

PE KIT

We will not be changing the children for PE due to trying to limit the amount of items going between home and school at the moment. Please now send your child in on Thursday morning in full PE kit ready for PE. They do not need to bring in school uniform - they will remain in PE kit for the whole day.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

As you will have read in Miss Payne's communications, we are now reverting to full school uniform for all. So children should now be in **school shoes rather than trainers** (apart from on PE day). **Please can you take a moment to check that your child/ren have the correct items (in the correct colours please, see socks, tights and shoes particularly)** as on the website list. Please click on the link if you need some further guidance, or to order something <http://www.stmarysschoolputney.co.uk/parents-and-pupils/school-uniform/>. Please note jewellery is not permitted in school, except for an inexpensive watch, friendship bracelet, and plain stud or sleeper earrings.

We spend a lot of time outside - **as it gets colder please make sure your child is dressed appropriately for the weather!** It is very important that ALL of your child's uniform is **CLEARLY LABELLED!**

YOUR CHILD'S DIGITAL EARLY YEARS LEARNING JOURNEY

We document your child's progress using an online tracking and assessment tool called the Early Excellence Assessment Tracker (EExAT). It is designed to capture key moments of your child's learning and development. This system replaces paper scrapbooks. We ask you to also get involved by using EExAT to comment on photos and videos added by the Reception team, and upload photos and short videos or your child's learning and development from home via this online system. More details of how to set up your account, and how to add comments and photos will follow soon. Please ensure you have returned the EExAT form sent out via email previously, so we are able to share your child's information.

DONATIONS

If you are discarding any **old uniform** please consider donating them to the Early Years: we are very short on spare clothes! We also are looking for old tights, socks, pants, as well as plastic bags!

If you have any questions please speak to a member of the Reception team or send an email.

Thank you for your continued support,

Miss de Souza and Miss James