

# Whimble Primary School

## Curriculum Newsletter - Elm Class Reception



Welcome to Reception! To enable you to support your child's learning at school it is important that you know what topics or areas they are studying. We hope that you find this helpful as your child begins their school learning journey in Elm Class.

Daily activities in Reception are planned according to the seven areas of learning outlined in the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum as shown below.

<u>Prime Areas</u>	<u>Specific Areas</u>
Communication and Language Personal Social and Emotional Development Physical Development	Literacy Mathematics Understanding the World Expressive Arts and Design

The areas of learning are delivered through a mixture of adult-led small group and whole class teaching sessions and free choice activities which are always available (often known as continuous provision). Each child has access to both the inside and outside environment in order to access learning and follow their own interests.

Evidence of your child's progress and achievements is recorded in their Tapestry Learning Journal. This will be available for you to view online in due course and further information will follow regarding access to your child's online journal.

Year: Reception Autumn Term 2023 Elm Class Topic: We are Britain/People who help us

### **Personal, Social and Emotional Development**

During this term we will focus on settling into school, developing relationships with staff and children and learning and following class routines. We will help the children to develop an understanding of the classroom rules and procedures to ensure everyone's safety and well-being. This will include taking turns, sharing resources and working together. Developing independence in self-care; hanging belongings onto peg, using the toilet and washing hands, using cutlery at lunchtime, putting on coats and gloves independently, choosing and selecting books, equipment and resources independently and tidying up! We use team points to motivate and reward children in school. These team points link to our 6Rs (Respect, Resilience, Reasoning, Responsibility, Reflection and Resourcefulness). Children are rewarded with a team token for their attitude, work or behaviour in relation to the 6Rs. The first half of this term we are focussing on Respect/Teamwork and Listening and then the second half we are focusing on Responsibility/Leadership and Speaking.

*How to help: Encourage your child to pack their school things when getting ready in the morning, perhaps using a checklist of belongings they will need for the day (coat, snack, lunchbox, book bag etc). Talk to your child about any worries or concerns they may have.*

## Communication and Language

There are numerous opportunities for the children to develop their speaking and listening skills through daily teaching sessions and the continuous provision activities. For example, through role play, circle time and class discussions as well as during small group work. The children are encouraged to express their ideas, contribute to discussions and develop their vocabulary through a language rich environment. We will share books, recount events and learn poems, nursery rhymes and songs by heart.

How to help: Play games like 'I spy', say 'silly sentences' using the same letter to start, e.g. Sam sees six sausages. Recite and sing nursery rhymes and songs - pick out the rhyming words.

## Physical Development

The children will develop their motor skills through a range of activities including the Real PE and Get Set 4 PE programmes but also in our 'Funky Fingers' sessions at the start of each day. We will focus on developing coordination, core strength and balance. Funky fingers will include activities such as peg boards, tweezers, puzzles, threading, playdough and cutting tasks to help develop fine motor skills.

How to help: Give your child lots of opportunities to practise hopping, jumping, skipping, climbing and balancing. Assist your child in knowing how to use a knife and fork, to practise opening tubs and packets and pouring their own drinks from a jug.

## Mathematics

In our number work we will focus on counting objects reliably to 10, numeral recognition to at least 10 and ordering numbers. Using the language of 'more', 'less' and 'fewer', and beginning to use the vocabulary of addition and subtraction (take away, minus, subtract, add). We will also look at 2D and 3D shapes and sorting objects. The children will develop their vocabulary of position, size, money and time. We will use the Number Sense programme to begin to develop a deeper understanding of number to 10 and develop children's number fact fluency.

How to help: Play maths games like dominoes and snap, snakes and ladders. Lay the table, ask questions like - how many more spoons are needed? Count everything and anything - stairs, steps, money, food, etc. Encourage your child to look for numbers and shapes in the environment; look for shapes within shapes.

## Literacy (reading and writing)

**Phonics** - Children will be taught daily, discrete phonics lessons using the Little Wandle synthetic phonics programme.

How to help: A phonics home learning sheet will be sent home regularly to enable you to support your child. This will detail the specific letters and sounds that the children have been working on in school.

**Writing** - We will work on developing good pencil control, especially the formation of letters in their name whilst encouraging the correct pencil grip.

How to help: If your child is starting to use pens/pencils try to encourage the correct pencil grip and letter formation (a habit of using an incorrect grip is really difficult to unlearn!). Encourage them to write in birthday cards or to help with shopping lists! When writing their own name encourage your child to use a capital letter at the beginning and then lower case letters.

**Reading** - Initially the children will develop their understanding and enjoyment of stories through the discussion of picture books. We will share fiction, non-fiction and poetry books. The children will participate in activities such as story sequencing to develop pre-reading skills.

We will use the Little Wandle approach for reading. The first reading books that the children bring home will not contain any text, allowing confidence to develop through discussion and story-telling using pictures and the child's own imagination. These will be sent home on Wednesdays and collected in on Mondays. As the children develop their phonic knowledge and the skills needed to begin to decode, they will bring home books with words matched to their phonic knowledge. Please encourage your child to practise reading this book at home.

The children will also bring home a list of words to learn to recognise and read 'on sight'. On Fridays the children will go to the school library to select a library book to bring home (this will not be matched to their phonic knowledge and is a book to be enjoyed and shared together).

*How to help: Re-read reading books together and feel free to elaborate on the stories. (Look at the parent guide for assistance - usually found inside the front/back cover). Continue to read to them stories of various lengths to develop their vocabulary. Help them to practise their word lists regularly.*

## Understanding the World

Using our topic of 'We are Britain/People who help us' we will look at past and present events in our lives and those of our families. We will learn about the different people in our environment that help us. We will explore our senses, our bodies, growth and what we need to be healthy. We will learn about minibeasts and see which ones have made their home in our school grounds. Seasons - we will collect and observe autumnal objects, talk about the weather and the change from summer to autumn. We will use simple ICT devices such as i-pads and programmable toys. We will discuss celebrations such as birthdays, Christmas and Harvest and build an awareness of the passing of time. We will make a class timeline of significant events in our school year.

*How to help: Share and discuss family photos. Talk about the food you eat and prepare. Discuss the animals, plants and objects you see when out and about or in the garden. Describe the weather and the clothing we need when it is warm and sunny or cold and raining. Talk about places you visit regularly, naming places and buildings in your local area. Ask questions - encourage your child to develop their curiosity about the world!*

## Expressive Arts and Design

Role play is part of our continuous provision and the focus of which will change regularly to reflect what we are learning about and the children's interests. We will use a selection of media in our art and craft including paints, pastels, collage and junk materials to represent ourselves and the things around us. We will use and explore un-tuned instruments and listen and respond to various types of music.

*How to help: Sing simple action and number rhymes and songs. Clap the beat when singing or saying people's names. Listen to a variety of music. Encourage your child to draw and paint using a variety of media and to discuss their creations with you!*

The children are settling in well and we are really pleased with how calmly they are coming into the classroom and how well they are listening. If you have any questions about your child's learning or any general queries, please do come and talk to us or make an appointment via the school office.

Thank you,

Miss Corwood (Monday and Tuesday)

Mrs Handley (Wednesday, Thursday and Friday)

