



Friday 3rd November 2023

Dear Parent

## Reception Newsletter

### Autumn 2

Welcome back to our second half term! It has been lovely to see how happy and excited the children have been about coming into school. Our topic this half term is 'Into the Woods' and we have lots of exciting activities planned for the next few weeks. For the majority of the day, the children will be playing and learning independently in the classrooms and outside - and taking part in art activities in the art area. We come to the carpet four times a day for short whole-class interactive teaching sessions: English first thing, phonics before lunch, maths after lunch and stories and songs at home time.

#### English

This week we have been enjoying the 'Percy the Park Keeper' stories and our new role-play areas: a woodland café, Percy's woodland hut and his workshop shed. We have been re-telling and re-enacting the stories, learning the names of all the animals, matching animal names and pictures and starting to write some words and simple sentences about Percy and the animals. We will be exploring lots more woodland stories over the coming weeks including 'Owl Babies' and 'The Gruffalo'.

#### Phonics

In phonics we have been learning lots of new letter sounds, or phonemes as we call them, and their graphemes, which are what the letters look like. We will be introducing four new letters and their sounds each week. A very important part of the Little Wandle Letters and Sounds approach to reading is to encourage the children to blend the sounds they know – putting them together to make words e.g. p-a-t pat, s-a-t sat. To encourage fluency with reading, we then move children on to blending in their heads and saying the whole word out loud. Thanks to all of you who attended the Phonics Workshop last half term. If you have any further questions regarding how we are teaching your children phonics, please do ask.

#### Maths

This half term we are focusing on counting and subitising (seeing a number of objects and knowing how many there are without needing to count). The children learn to recognise numerals and to count out objects accurately using one-to-one correspondence (the concept of numbering objects as we count them). We will also be exploring how numbers are made up, for example we can make three using three ones or two and one.

#### Group Reading Sessions

Each week we will continue to read with the children in small groups. Each child will enjoy three reading sessions a week. The first will focus on de-coding, blending and segmenting to sound out each word. The second will encourage the children to use their voices to really tell the story, using expression. In the third



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we concentrate on developing inference skills (using the pictures, their own experience and the context) and discuss what they think might happen next and why.

### **Reading books**

Each week we will send a book home for you to read with your child. At this stage, most children will not yet be able to read the words, but they will be able to talk about the book with you and recognise some letters and even simple words. Please don't feel you have to read the school book every night, but please do make time to enjoy a book or two with your child every evening.

### **Book bags**

It is great that so many of you are bringing book bags every day. We ask that everyone does their best to bring the book bag into school each day to ensure that homework books, newsletters, forms and other communications are less likely to get lost.

### **Homework**

We hope you have enjoyed the Reception homework activities. We will continue to upload a new activity to the Google Classroom each Friday. The homework will reflect what we have been learning that week and will help give you an idea of what your children are doing at school. Please support your child with the activity and use the homework books or Google Classroom to display the activity for us to see,

### **Woods Trip Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> November**

We have our first Reception trip planned for this half term – a Gruffalo Hunt in Highgate Woods! More information about this trip will follow, but we will meet at school as usual, walk to the woods, go Gruffalo hunting and have a hot chocolate before walking back to school in time for lunch. We will need some parent volunteers to accompany us on this trip. Details of how many volunteers we need and how to volunteer will be shared nearer the time.

### **Trip to the Jackson's Lane Theatre Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December**

We are really excited to be able to take the children to a show this half term at the newly refurbished Jackson's Lane Theatre where we will be watching a performance of 'The Three Billy Goats Gruff'. We will leave school at around 9.30 / 9.45 to walk up to the theatre. We will be asking for parent volunteers, but places will be limited.

### **Nature Kitchen**

The children are really enjoying 'cooking' with acorns, conkers, barley, pumpkin, herbs and leaves in our outdoor Nature Kitchen. We are always grateful for donations of new ingredients to keep our kitchen well stocked!

### **Lost Property**

Please put your child's name in coats, hats and any other clothing that is likely to get lost. This really helps us to return clothes to you when they are found around the school.





### Volunteers

We always welcome parent volunteers! If you would like to come in and read a story at the end of the day, talk about an upcoming religious festival or help the children with an art activity please let Kate, Rosie or Johanna know.

### Key dates

Parents Evening	Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> and Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> November
INSET Day	Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> November
Trip to Highgate Woods	Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> November
Winter Fair	Saturday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December
Reception Nativity	Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> December
Trip to Jackson's Lane	Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> December

Thank you for all your support.

With very best wishes

Rosie, Kate and Johanna



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