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Curriculum News **Spring Term 2017**

Dear Parents/Carers,

The children are making good progress in their learning and are developing good friendships with each other and with the adults in the class. They are getting used to playing in a variety of different situations, sometimes independently, sometimes within a regular small group and sometimes as part of the whole class.

We are delighted with the interest and support you have shown in coming to the reading and phonics workshop, the reading party and book time events.

Our topic this term is, '**It's good to be me!**' As part of this topic we want to invite you to think about some special object, picture or artefact that can tell us something special about your child and your family. We want to celebrate the different experiences that each family brings to the school community.

After half term we would also love to invite parents and carers to share their skills, jobs and talents with us. We will let you know more details later in the term.

Personal, social and emotional development

This half term the children will be thinking about their own achievements so far and also about the skills they need to learn in the future. The Learners are crucial to their understanding of themselves as learners and the way we can all become effective lifelong learners. We will focus on developing their self-confidence and encourage the children to recognise their own unique gifts and talents.

We observe every child and talk to them about their learning and encourage them to think about the next steps they need to make in their learning.

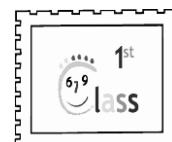
Communication and Language, reading and writing

Our school is working hard to encourage all our children to love books and reading.

We continue to invite all parents and carers to join us every Friday afternoon at 3pm to share books with the children. This is a really popular event with the children.

We always take books outside at playtime, into the outdoor learning environment and into the parents' area for you to share before and after school.

Learning for Life within Christian Values



We are now learning the phase 3 sounds and your child will be bringing home phoneme cards so that you can practise them together. We are learning to read lots more captions and are doing shared story writing to develop their imagination and their understanding of story structure.

The children have access to lots of writing experiences and the adults in class often scribe exciting adventure stories for our very enthusiastic future authors.

We will also learn the scripts of stories so the children have a range of vocabulary and an understanding of story structure on which to build their own stories.

The children will take part in guided reading sessions with me once a week. They will always take part in the reading session but will only take home books when they return the books they have borrowed. We ask every child to choose a new book to read or share at home every day and we always put letters in the book bags for safe keeping. It is very important that your child brings their book bag to school every day.

We also read many non-fiction books to find out more about the world around us.

We are delighted with the enthusiasm shown by the children and we value your continued commitment to helping your child.

Mathematics

The children have lots of practical opportunities to use and understand our number system. They use number every day in a range of contexts. The early learning goal for number expects that all children at the end of the Reception Year, understand numbers 1-20 and can recognise the name of the number and represent that quantity.

The children find out about pattern, shape, data handling, measure and calculating. We use numicon to help the children develop a visual understanding of the number system. The children explore counting both inside and outside, for example, claps windows, jumps, and steps. The children are also taught to find one more and one less than a given number and to understand doubles of numbers like 1,2,3,4,5,10. They will also be taught how to do simple addition and subtraction sums.

Understanding the world

The children always have plenty of opportunities to learn about their world. We hope to arrange exciting visitors and plan trips to help the children find out more about the world. The children have many opportunities to explore natural and man made materials both inside and outside, including the physical properties of sand, soil and water. Our mud kitchen gives the children hands on experience of what happens to soil when it is dry, moist, wet and saturated. They learn the physical properties needed to create a mud pie or how to sieve soil. Our planters host lots of minibeasts that the children can discover and care for.

Physical development

The children have a beautiful outdoor environment that provides lots of exciting opportunities for physical, creative, dramatic and exploratory play. The children always have access to the outdoor learning environment during independent learning time and even when it rains we can use our covered outside area.

The children have PE lessons in the hall on Wednesday afternoons.

Expressive arts and design

We want the children to have the confidence to experiment and to be creative in art, music, dance, story telling and drama. The children are encouraged to use pens, paints, dough, paper, crayons, scissors and other tools to execute their own designs.

We also have music sessions using the Charanga music programme and the children will enjoy the following songs this half term.

Week 1 -We are family

Week 2 - Thula Baba, a South African Lullaby

Week 3 - ABC -Jackson 5

Week 4 - My Mum is amazing by Zain Bhikha

Week 5 - Conga - Miami Sound Machine

Week 6 - Mozart's horn concerto no 4

The lessons teach the children to:

A Listen and respond

B Explore and Create using voices and instruments

C Sing and play

D Share and perform

Parental Partnership

I am always happy to meet with parents and carers after school to talk about your child. Please mention it to the adult at the door in the morning and we can make a convenient appointment.

Parents' area

The parents' area is open and staffed from 8.30 every morning. You are welcome to come in and sit and read with your child before school. You can also use the area after school from 3.20 until 4.15.

If you would like to get involved in life at our school we have a fantastic Parent Teacher Association that meets regularly to plan family events like the Christmas Disco and the Summer Fair. They are always eager to welcome new members.

If you want to help in any of our classrooms then you need to fill in a special form. You can find out more from the staff in the school office.

The Reception Team