



# Reception Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year! A huge welcome back to our families this week.

We are incredibly lucky to have such a fun first week back with our Little Mermaid WOW week. Lots of new and unique activities such as Mermaid gymnastics, a theatre trip and an online trip to the Aquarium all coming up!

Included in this Class Newsletter is an overview of all the learning that will be packed into this half term. Our Topic will be 'Let's Explore' and our class text this half term is 'Naughty Bus' By Jan Oke.

The children will be taking part in some field studies to learn about landmarks in our local environment and we will also be talking about other places that they have visited too! We are asking, as part of their homework, for children to bring in a photograph from a trip they have taken to share with the rest of the class. (Please see attached homework for more information.)

This half term we will have a picnic as part of our Muddy Monday learning on the 2nd February 2026 and our in final week we will learn all about Chinese New Year and on Thursday 12th February 2026 we will hold a Chinese New Year Party where there will be dragon dancing and traditional Chinese food for us to try!

Lots of action and adventure this this half term with lovely opportunities to bring our curriculum to life!



## Home Learning:

Activities will continue to be sent home termly. We ask that an attempt is made at 4 out of the 6 activities for the child to get a homework certificate at the end of each term.

Children only need to complete a maximum of one homework task each week.

Homework books to be given to Class teacher on Friday's they will be returned the same day.

## Home Reading:

Most children have developed onto books with words during last half term. We are incredibly proud of the readers our children are becoming.

We are due to start our Phase 3 Phonics sessions this Spring 1 term. These are notoriously difficult sessions that require lots of practice.

We ask that children are read with 5 times a week, even just one page a day helps! Once you have read with your child we ask you leave a note in their diary's so we can work more collaboratively to ensure your child is getting the best support.

## Muddy Monday's

We love our Muddy Monday sessions where we learn outdoors all day.

This term we flew kites, made recycled wind socks, did some huff and puff painting, drew around our shadows, hung out Miss Holland's washing, made bird (but probably squirrel) feeders, raced our trikes/bikes, threaded a trellis fence, cooked mud pie birthday cakes, dug in the sand pit, went on a bear hunt and a million other side quests along the way!

These will be continuing through this term and we can't wait to see what is in store.

We strongly encourage children to come dressed warmly on Monday as the they will be outside for the majority of the day. We also have our outdoor P.E session on this day so children can wear P.E kits with a few other layers if needed.

If it is wet outside bring wellies and waterproofs as we love to run around in the rain and jump in puddles!

If it is cold children will need to wear hat, scarves and gloves. It helps us immensely if these are named and also means if they get lost we can usually unite them with their rightful owner.



## Phonics:

Our wonderful children did a great job at securing their Phase 2 Phonics learning. This term we begin our journey into Phase 3, lots more digraphs and trigraphs to recall, lots more tricky words to learn to read and spell!

There will be a Phase 3 phonics meeting held on Tuesday 13th January at 9-9.30am where we go over phoneme pronunciation and some top tips in reading and writing using new phonics learning.

During this time a phonics workshop where parents can come into class to watch their children learn phonics. If you would like to take part in this please let Mrs Davies know so she can prepare the class for the correct amount of visitors.

## English:

Learning this half term will be based around the story 'Naughty Bus' By Jan Oke.

During English session children will be encouraged to form letters correctly and spell words phonetically. We will be encouraging more children to write at greater length including short captions and sentences as a general expectations for the majority of pupils this term.

Most importantly this half term we will be encouraging children to start to read their own writing and giving support in checking what they have written makes sense.

Added to this as children start to learn more Phase 3 Phonemes we would hope to see these begin to emerge in their own writing too!

## Mathematics:

We will continue on our Power Maths journey this term and children over the coming weeks will become familiar with counting representations (numerals, pictures, objects), cardinality (How many?) and abstract maths using numbers to 10 in fun and engaging ways.

We will also explore numbers within 10 (number bonds), comparing more/fewer than amounts, and combining two parts to make a whole amount (addition to 10).

In the last weeks of this term we will have sessions dedicated to measuring, children will learn how to measure length, height and weight, using the correct comparative terms and non-standard units to measure in.

## PSHE:

This term we will focus on our own dreams and goals.

We will learn how determination and perseverance can help us to achieve.

We will look at how our actions and words can help others to succeed.

We will talk about how achieving our goals can make us feel proud.

## RE:

In Religious Education, children will be learning about how families of different faiths welcome new babies.

We learn about how God loves all children through scripture in the Bible and about Christian Baptism ceremonies.

We will look at how the Muslim and Hindu faiths welcome new babies and how families show love for each other and their different God's.

## Understanding of the World:

This half term our topic is 'Lets Explore' we will be looking at our local environment and carrying out field work on our school grounds to learn about natural and man made landmarks.

We will learning about where we live and using and making maps to show journeys we have been on.

All children are invited to bring a photo of a place they have visited to share and talk about in class as part of their homework.

In science, we will be looking at seasonal change and watching for signs of winter.

In addition to this we learn about the celebration of Chinese New Year. During the final week we will learn the story of Chinese New Year and all about the culture of the festivities. We will hear traditional music and learn some new dances. During our party we will try food and play games too!

## PE

PE lessons will take place on **Monday and Tuesday** this term.

We are asking that children come to school dressed in their PE kits on PE days. Please ensure your child is wearing no jewellery on these days.

Monday will be an outdoor P.E session to be included in our 'Muddy Monday' learning. This term children will be learning Ball skills such as throwing, catching, kicking and hitting.

Tuesday will be in the Hall and children will practise gymnastics with Mr B-M from Time For Sport.

Children are also invited to wear P.E kit on **Thursday** for Chuckle Days as we have a movement and Music session on that day.

