



Welcome Back

Welcome to Ash Class's first newsletter. It has been a pleasure to meet all of you over the last week and to welcome your children into their Reception year. The children have been very busy exploring the various areas within their new classroom and starting to develop their friendships within the class. It is lovely to begin to get to know each of the children and we are beginning to learn lots about them. The children should each be very proud of themselves for how well they have made the transition into Reception, ready for lots of fun and learning to follow. Throughout the year Miss Woods will be supporting in class from Tuesday to Friday and Mrs May will also be supporting in class each morning throughout the week. Mrs May will be leading the Forest School sessions, supported by Miss Woods. Our Forest School sessions will be on a Friday afternoon and the children's PE session, with Mr Hall, will be taking place on a Tuesday afternoon.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Our main focus this term is ensuring that your child is happy and settled into the school routine. In Reception, we feel that children learn best when they are in an environment where they feel safe and secure. They will be encouraged to access a range of activities independently in both our indoor and outdoor environments.

Physical Development

The children will have daily access to a variety of activities and resources to develop both their gross and fine motor skills to help support their mark-making and writing. These will involve activities such as, playing with and manipulating playdough, using tweezers to pick up small objects and cutting out using scissors. We will also be focusing on supporting the children to begin to carry out self-care tasks independently, such as toileting and understanding why they need to wash their hands. To help with this, please could you encourage your child to put on their own coat and pull up their zip. It would be really helpful if your child keeps their P.E. kit in a named bag in school so that we can be flexible in when we include P.E. activities into their learning and so they are ready for Thursday afternoons with Mr. Hall. The children will work towards changing for P.E. independently and practice of this at home would be a great help.

Communication and Language

The children will be encouraged to share and communicate their experiences with their friends and adults in the class. This allows the children the opportunity to recognise how special they are as individuals and encourages them to form friendships and to feel part of their class as a whole. We will also talk and complete activities about families and who is part of their family, including pets. We do this in a number of ways, for example through discussions, circle times and encouraging the children to listen and talk to each other.

Literacy

This term, we will begin by focusing on the early stages of reading and writing. The children will experience a range of texts in order to encourage a love of books and reading to carry on throughout their lives. We shall also begin to teach Phonics using the Read Write Inc programme. As the term progresses, the children will become familiar with the Set 1 sounds and use these to begin reading cvc (consonant/vowel/consonant) words, such as cat. We shall begin look at some common exception words too. The children will also practice writing pre-writing shapes and begin to form letters correctly when writing their name and some cvc words for labelling pictures.

Mathematics

In Mathematics we will begin by focusing on finding and making patterns, counting and ordering numbers. In Reception, we want to ensure that the children develop a secure understanding of the value of numbers so that they are able to manipulate them confidently when starting to use them for calculations later in the year.

Understanding the World

For this area of learning, we will be encouraging the children to talk about the world around them and to think about why things are happening. We hope they will be asking many questions to develop their knowledge further. In sharing sessions, we will encourage the children to talk about familiar events and experiences in their lives and about people who are important to them.

Expressive Arts and Design

The children will have continued access to a variety of resources which they can then use to model, paint and create collages, so each one can be an artist. We will provide opportunities for the children to use their imagination in role-play, using a variety of small world toys and opportunity to dress up as characters. They will also have the opportunity to explore the sounds of different musical instruments and learn nursery rhymes, new songs and poems.

Forest School

Our Forest School is every Friday afternoon with Mrs May and Miss Woods. The first session will take place on Friday 12th September, so the children will need their kit on this day. Please refer to the school website and click on the 'Forest School' tab for more information. This term, we will be learning Forest School rules, using equipment and tools safely. We will also be having our first fire and be learning about hibernation and migration.

Homework

In order to support and consolidate your child's learning this term, we would like you to:

Read – Please share lots of different storybooks with your child on a daily basis. Soon, your child will also bring home a 'Dream Reads' book for you to share together throughout the week. These books will then be returned on Monday for another book to be selected for sharing. Later in the term, as the children develop their phonic skills, we will start to send home 'Ditty Sheets' linked to their phonic knowledge.

Phonics – When we have started to use the Read Write Inc Phonics programme with the children, we will upload to Class Dojo the sounds that we are learning for you to practise. It will be very important for your child to pronounce the sounds correctly so please do follow the links when we upload them.

Maths – At home, please support your child by counting objects and actions such as claps, jumps and hops or the steps as they walk up and down the stairs. They can also be number hunters and spot numerals in the environment around them such as speed signs, door numbers and number plates.

Website and Newsletter – <http://www.overstone-wing.bucks.sch.uk>

Remember to check the 'Latest News' on the school website to keep up to date with what is happening. The school newsletter will come out on the last Friday of the month and will celebrate what we have been up to and will tell you what is coming up in the next month. This will be sent to you via Parent Mail.

Behaviour & Rewards

Dojo points – We will be using these as the term progresses. These are given to children demonstrating the school values, e.g. sharing a good piece of work or demonstrating good manners. The children will receive certificates to mark 50-point milestones in the celebration assembly.

Sharing outside achievements – Children will be able to share achievements from outside school in celebration assembly, e.g. swimming badges.

Weekly certificate – One child in each class will receive a values certificate in celebration assembly for showing the school values.

Governor award – Termly the teacher's will vote for one person in their class who they feel has consistently demonstrated the school values. These children will be presented with a Governor badge to be worn on their uniform.

Headteacher postcard – These are awarded to children when they are sent to the Headteacher for demonstrating good behaviour, completing good work and for clear evidence of showing the school values.

Equipment

Please send your child in each day with a clearly named drinks bottle filled with water which can be refilled throughout the day. Please ensure your child has a waterproof coat for school which is also clearly named.

Thank you and any questions please do not hesitate to speak to any member of the Reception Team.