



Happy New Year

We are already in the second term of Reception, the time really does seem to be flying past. The children have all returned and settled very well after the Christmas break. I have been very pleased with how they have settled back into school and their eagerness to share their news and to get back into their learning routine. This enthusiasm will definitely support each of them with building on the wonderful progress they made in the Autumn term and all the learning they will accumulate throughout this term. We are all ready for a busy start to 2023, with many accomplishments and lots of fun.

Throughout this term, our PE session, with the coach, will continue to be on a Wednesday afternoon and Forest School will continue to take place each Monday afternoon.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

During the Spring Term, we shall be focusing our attention on following instructions, increasing the number of these to make achievements in an activity. We will be further promoting the value of 'trying hard' alongside this to support the children in becoming more confident to try new activities with independence, resilience and perseverance.

Physical Development

The children will continue to work on developing their fine and gross motor skills through a variety of activities and we will be introducing more focus of letter formation when writing. In P.E. lessons the children will have the opportunity to develop and refine gross motor skills such as jumping and landing, balancing and ball skills.

So many of the children are able to change into their P.E. kit as independently as possible, but please continue to encourage them to dress and undress themselves at home and to zip up their own coats for outside activities.

Communication and Language

The children will be encouraged to share and communicate their experiences with their friends and adults in the class, developing their awareness of sentence construction and using connectives to verbally link ideas when doing so. The children will also be encouraged to recall key parts of stories they know and retell the story in their own words.

Literacy

This term, we will be focusing on consolidating the children's skills in the early stages of reading and writing. The children will continue to experience a range of texts in order to encourage a love of books and reading throughout their lives. Our focus books will be 'Juniper Jupiter' and 'Little Red.' We will encourage them to use vocabulary linked to the different parts of stories, such as *Once upon a time*, *Suddenly*, *At last*, *Finally*. We will continue to teach Phonics in daily Read Write Inc sessions, developing oral blending and word reading and introducing Guided Reading sessions. The daily phonics will start to be taught in separate groups by myself, Miss Loveridge and Miss Woods. These groups will focus on the areas of phonics which the children need to revisit or move onto when appropriate for the developing skills and knowledge.

Mathematics

In mathematics, we will focus on consolidating the children's knowledge of numbers up to 5 and introducing numbers up to 10. 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 term. We will also be exploring size and mass, including looking at which objects are heavier/heaviest or lighter/lightest by estimating and weighing them. Other topics that will be covered include length, height and time.

Understanding the World

We will start the term by carrying out investigations and experiments to begin to look at forces and changes of state for some materials. We will move onto looking at animals from the past, such as dinosaurs, and the needs and care for animal living presently.

Expressive Arts and Design

We will be encouraging the children to access a variety of resources which they can then use to model, paint and create collages this term. Each week, we will be focusing on a particular skill, such as cutting or joining materials, to enable them to be even more ambitious when being creative. They will also have the opportunity to explore the sounds of different musical instruments and learn new songs and rhymes.

Forest School

Our Forest School day is Monday afternoon with Mrs May and Miss Loveridge. The alternating groups and dates for their forest school afternoon is on the class story page of Class Dojo. Please refer to the school website and click on the 'Forest School' tab for more information. This term, we will be experiencing their first forest school fire and ways to look after the nature around them.

Homework

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

Read – Please continue share lots of different storybooks with your child on a daily basis, the love of reading is something which the children deserve to have for life. We will continue to visit the school library to take out a book for you and them to share together. These books will need to be in school on a Thursday as this is when we will visit the Library to change them. The children will also bring home books linked to their phonic knowledge.

Phonics – Videos from the Read Write Inc Phonics programme will continue to be uploaded to Class Dojo this term. These will be sounds that the children are learning or have covered for them to practise further. It will be very important for your child to recall and pronounce the sounds correctly so please do follow the links when I upload them.

Maths – At home, please continue to support your child by counting various objects and actions, you could challenge them to see how many jumps or laps of the garden they can do in 1 or 5 minutes, counting the laps as they go. You could also support them by encouraging them to compare lengths when building, sort objects according to their length or weight, using the vocabulary heavier/heaviest, lighter/lightest, longer/longest, shorter/shortest. Cooking together at home is a wonderful way to include this in a fun way.

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 continuing to use 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 class will hold a secret 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 clear 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 clearly named.

Thank you for all your support over the previous term and if you have any questions please do not hesitate to speak to any member of the Reception Team.