



Happy New Year

We are already in the second term of Reception, the time really does seem to be flying past. I have been very pleased with how all the children have settled back into school and their eagerness to get back into their learning routine. This enthusiasm will strongly support each of them with building on the wonderful progress they made in the Autumn term and will certainly lead to them gaining further confidence in their developing skills and to lots of learning throughout this new term. Throughout this term, our PE session with the Mr Hall will continue to be on a Tuesday afternoon. Forest School will continue to take place each Thursday afternoon with Mrs May. For this the children will need to have warm clothes and waterproofs for whatever weather the Winter and Spring brings. We are all ready for a busy start to 2025, with many accomplishments much enjoyment and lots of fun.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

During the Spring Term, we shall be focusing our speaking and listening on talking about our families, friends and relationships with others. 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 continuing our focus of careful formation when writing letters and numbers. In P.E. lessons the children will have the opportunity to practice and define the gross motor skills of jumping and landing, hopping and skipping. 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, providing details 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 have opportunity to experience a range of texts through daily story times and by bringing home the 'Dream Read' books weekly. Our focus books will be 'Juniper Jupiter' and 'Little Red.' Through these, we will encourage the children 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 start to introduce some guided reading sessions as the term progresses. The children will also be continuing to work on their own independent writing, verbalizing words and sentences, encouraged to use Fred Talking to support their spelling.

Mathematics

In mathematics, we will focus on consolidating the children's knowledge of numbers up to 5, subitizing groups of objects and recalling number pairs to make a total. 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 to make ten later in the term. During this term, we will be exploring size and mass, including comparing objects to state whether they are taller/smaller or they are heavier/lighter. We will also start to name, describe and explore some features of 3D shapes.

Understanding the World

We will start the term by carrying out investigations and experiments to begin to investigate forces and changes of state for some materials. We will move onto looking at the children's family trees and the achievements they have made in the past. As with throughout the year, we will regularly revisit the seasons and the changes these bring.

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. During this term, collage will be a technique which we use and revisit for a selection of pieces of art work. Each week, the children will have the opportunity to practice a particular skill, such as cutting or joining materials, to enable them to be even more ambitious when being creative artists. They will also have the opportunity to explore music and movement, looking at the beat, tempo and pitch.

Forest School

Our Forest School day is Thursday afternoon with Mrs May, Miss Woods and Mrs Krzeminski. 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. The children are now bringing home ditty sheets linked to their phonic knowledge, please read these together a few times and we will aim to change them weekly. We will also continue to visit the school library on a Friday to take out a book for you and them to share together. These books will need to be in school when we will visit the Library to change them.

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 minute. On walks, they could be set the challenge to have to find or spot a given number of objects. 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 the vocabulary of weight and counting 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. trying hard with a good piece of work or demonstrating good manners. The children will receive certificates to mark 50-point milestones.

Sharing outside achievements – Children will be able to share achievements from outside school with the class.

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, which they can put on and zip up independently which is also 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.