

Reception Curriculum letter – Autumn 2016

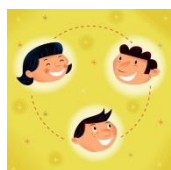
Dear Parents, carers, families and friends,
Welcome to you and your child for their year in Reception at Leighswood.

We would like to tell you about some of the things your child will be experiencing this term. In line with the **Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum** we will ensure activities create opportunities for children to **'Play and Explore'**, **'Actively Learn'** and **'Think Creatively and Critically'** all of which are characteristics of effective learning.

Here are some of the exciting things we will be doing this term.

PRIME AREAS

Personal, Social and Emotional Development



We will be establishing new routines for your child in Reception. Introducing them to the timetable for a full day at school and getting them familiar with the transitions between classrooms and activities.

New relationships will be developed between adults and children as they make new friends and work with different adults.

Children will be supported to enjoy the new lunchtime routine.

How you can help? *Talk to your child about their day. Ask them about their new friends and new teachers. 😊*

Physical development



This term we will be introducing our new 'Funky Finger' activities. These activities develop your child's fine motor skills and help them get ready to write.

We will be talking about healthy eating as we eat our fresh fruit and vegetables each day and encourage healthy choices at lunch time.

How you can help? *Help develop your child's fine motor skills. Here are a few ideas:*

- 1 Cooking – chopping veg or mixing cakes*
- 2 Making play dough – using a variety of tools to play with e.g garlic crusher, cutting the play dough with scissors, using a knife and fork.*
- 3 Threading pasta*
- 4 using tweezers to pick up tiny items and put into small jar*

Communication and Language Development

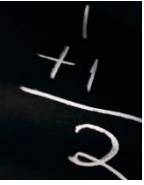


Your child's new teacher will be sharing their Learning Journey with them and talking about their talents, enthusiasms and interests. They will have many opportunities to share their thoughts and ideas throughout the day and understand how to do this within a Reception class.

How you can help? *Ask your children what they like best about school. Write it down and send it back to us so that we know this too. 😊*

SPECIFIC AREAS

Mathematics We will be developing their interest in numbers by offering activities to promote this both outdoors and indoors. Alien spaceships, ladybird games, cheer leading and bell ringing are just a few of the fun things in store. Shape, space and measure is also a part of Mathematical Development and children will be investigating shapes outdoors on a large scale and making arrangements with smaller shapes inside. These activities encourage children to investigate the properties and names of 2D and 3D shapes.



How you can help? *Count with your child every day, count as you climb the stairs, count as you lay the table. Make a set of number cards for your child, put their favourite character on them.*
Talk about the shapes of everyday items they use. What shapes can you see when you look at your house? ☺

Literacy



As many of you will be aware we will be introducing our Fred time (phonics session). Each day children will learn how to identify a new letter sound and how to write it. Many children will learn to blend sounds to make words, leading on to reading words. An exciting programme of activities will ensure all children progress at their own rate.

How you can help? *Please look out for letter sounds in their bag. Read the sounds each day, make up games with the sounds and practise writing the sound. You may write the letter sound in shaving foam or with water and paint brush on the tarmac. Be as creative as you like but remember to have fun. ☺*

Understanding of the world



Children continue to enjoy Forest Schools, investigating and exploring the changes in our environment as autumn takes hold.

Children will be introduced to new programmes on the computers, I-Pads and interactive whiteboards.

How you can help? *Talk to your children about the world they live in. Where do they live? What do they like about it? What would they change if they could? ☺*

Expressive Arts and Design



Children will learn new songs, poems and dances each week to support the interests of the children. Listen out for our autumn harvest boogie.

Role play is an important part of Expressive Arts and Design and a favourite of the children at this stage of term is to role play teachers, therefore clipboards and teachers' accessories are provided to encourage this play.

How you can help? *Encourage your child to have their own ideas, make up their own songs as well as sing some of your favourite songs and rhymes. ☺*

The Autumn term is an exciting time when children are introduced to many new experiences and settle down into their new routine. We have a Pumpkin Party on Thursday 20th October 4.30 – 6pm and a Christmas performance in December (dates to follow)

We are looking forward to working with you and your child this year.



