

Autumn Term in Reception

Welcome to Reception! All of the children are settling so well into Clarendon and are making new friends, learning new routines and having lots of fun! We are very impressed with how well they are doing. Later in the term you will be invited to a Parent Consultation to discuss their first few weeks in school. We will also be able to discuss your child's targets and next steps in learning so that you can support this at home. In the meantime, here is some information which we hope you find useful. This half term our topic is 'All about me'. We will be exploring how we change as we grow and how to face new challenges with a positive attitude. We will be learning the rules and routines of our school and will learn how to work together purposefully and happily as a class as well as having lots of fun completing various topic related activities. Next half term our topic is 'Senses and Celebrations'. We will also begin our synthetic phonics programme which helps your child learn the letter sounds.

Literacy

We will start to teach Phase 2 in phonics (most of the single letter sounds), alongside Phase 1 as the children still need to develop their listening skills. We teach them how to recognise and blend the letter sounds for reading, and how to segment them and form the letters for writing. We use cued articulation and letters and sounds.

We also teach the children technical words like phoneme, (the letter sound) and grapheme, (the written letter sound). Please come to the phonics workshop if you have any questions.

We also encourage lots of fine motor activities, such as finger gym, so that fingers can write.

Useful Websites/links

<http://www.letters-and-sounds.com>

How can you help?

- ✓ Doing fine motor activities, such as using playdough, painting, threading, drawing, playing with buttons, etc.
- ✓ Reading with your child for about 10 minutes each day, and talking about the subject of the book.
- ✓ Help your child to practise writing the letters according to the Clarendon handwriting scheme, starting and finishing in the correct places.
- ✓ Encouraging them to do simple counting, addition and subtraction in fun and practical situations using objects.
- ✓ Using and recognising numbers up to 20.
- ✓ Talking about simple mathematical problems.

Homework

This includes reading their reading books, a maths activity and a literacy based activity.

Maths

Number

- counting, recognising, writing and ordering numbers to 20
- problem solving

Shape, Space and Measure

- building with 3D shapes and objects
- learning simple 2D and 3D shape names
- using positional language (on, in, etc.)

Useful Websites/links

<http://www.topmarks.co.uk>

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Making friends and asking people to play with you.

Turn taking and sharing.

Being good at tidying up and looking after our resources and classroom.

Selecting and using resources with some help.

Asking for help from an adult when needed.

Communication and Language

- Listening to others one to one or in small groups.
- Listening to stories with increasing attention and recall.
- Joining in with repeated refrains and anticipates key events and phrases in rhymes and stories.
- Following directions and responding to instructions.
- Understanding 'why' and 'how' questions.
- Understanding prepositions such as 'under', 'on top', 'behind' by carrying out an action or selecting the correct picture.
- Using more complex sentences to link thoughts (eg. Using 'and' or 'because')
- Using talk to connect ideas, explain what is happening and anticipate what might happen next.

Physical Development

- Moving in a range of ways, safely negotiating space.
- Running skilfully and negotiating space successfully, adjusting speed or direction to avoid obstacles.
- Drawing lines and circles using gross motor movements.
- Using one-handed tools and equipment.
- Holding a pencil between the thumb and first two fingers, and developing good control.
- Copying letters.

Please encourage your child to use a knife and fork independently at home.

Expressive Art and Design

- Using the painting easel, aprons and drying rack.
- Using the musical instruments.
- Making food.
- Songs relating to our learning such as Harvest, Autumn and other songs such as nursery rhymes.
- Role play mud kitchen, home corner and construction site.

Understanding the World

- Autumn, harvest and the changes
- Joining in with some different customs that occur this term (e.g. harvest, Divali, Christmas etc.)
- ICT skills - CD player, cameras, basic skills in the ICT suite.
- Playing and talking about small world resources
- How we grow and change
- How we are each special

Other useful information about Reception

The British Weather

As the British weather is a little unpredictable, please send your child into school with a waterproof coat and wellies, (all clearly named) if there is any chance that they might need it, as they spend a lot of time learning outside.

Jewellery

Please note that children are not allowed to wear any jewellery to school, except for one earring stud for boys and one pair of studs for girls. These will need to be removed for P.E by the children; therefore many parents do not put them in on Tuesdays. If bracelets are worn for religious purposes these need to be covered with sweat bands for PE.

PE

Please help us, and your child, by getting them to practise changing and unchanging by themselves. We encourage all the children to be as independent as possible but we do need your support with this. We will, of course, help them with tricky things, such as tights and buttons, but we do expect all the children to try first. Please label the PE bag and all the contents inside it, including shoes and socks, so that we can return any items left in the classroom! PE is currently on a Tuesday morning, but can be subject to change.

Tissues

As you can imagine we use a lot of tissues in Reception, and with the winter months creeping up on us and noses starting to run, I would be very grateful if you could donate any spare boxes of tissues.

Book bags

We are pleased that your children are remembering to bring their purple book bags to school each day. Please check them daily as this is where any letters will be. Letters and books should be the only items in the book bags so that we can store them efficiently. Please do not put water bottles in them as they can leak! Book bags are to be named clearly on the outside.

Fruit and Milk

In the Reception Class children enjoy a snack of fruit and milk, (or water) in the morning. Every child of 4 is entitled to free milk. However, children who have turned 5 will need to pay. If you would like your child to receive milk, (regardless of their age) you need to register for this. Please see the office for details. As part of the Healthy Schools Initiative we are provided with a piece of fruit for each child every day. If you would ever like to donate some extra fruit to the class, feel free! It is a great way to encourage healthy eating and the children often love to eat more than one piece of fruit for a snack.

Every day your child needs to bring a plastic sipper bottle containing water only to keep in class. No juice.

Nuts!

It has been tradition at Clarendon to let children bring in sweets or cakes to hand out to the other children on their birthday. Please remember that we are a nut-free school so be mindful of this when bringing anything in. We do have children in school with severe nut allergies and this can be fatal.