

14 September 2018

Dear Parents

It has been another super week in Reception Class! We are so pleased with how well the children are settling in at school and we are really enjoying getting to know them.

This week we have been observing the children at play and have been working on little tasks with them on a 1:1 basis to develop a baseline profile on each child. This helps with planning the starting points for each child's next steps in their learning.



We have spent time this week practising recognising and writing our names. It would be a great help if you could also work on this at home encouraging the children to sign birthday cards etc. It is important that they understand that most writing is done in lowercase and only the initial letter should be a capital.



Another focus this week has been counting, recognising and writing numbers to 10. Some are proving trickier than others but it is something we will be revisiting daily over the next few weeks. We set up a little finger gym activity linked to numbers and encouraged the children to thread the correct number of beads onto labelled pipe cleaners. If you would like to help your child with the number work we have been doing you could get them to look for numbers in the environment when out and about, or practising counting as they climb the stairs at bedtime.



We have now joined the rest of the school at morning and afternoon break times, and have been amazed with the confidence they have shown and how they have mixed with friends in other classes. The Buddies have been brilliant with the children organising games to play with them such as duck, duck, goose. Older siblings and friends have also been keen to play games with Reception.

On Tuesday morning we took part in the schools value assembly. Each month the whole school focus on a different value to help them develop there all round understanding of the world we live in. This months value is 'Love' and throughout the month children will think about what love means to them.

You may have noticed Mrs Fullam seeing the children out on Wednesday afternoon. This will happen each week, to allow Mrs Copeland and Mrs McCarthy to meet to discuss and plan for

future learning in class. During these afternoons she will be supported by Mrs Hewison and this week they enjoyed singing some well-known songs.

We have had our first PE session this week. PE takes place on a Friday and this term we will be working on dance and gymnastic skills. Children wear shorts and t-shirt and whilst indoors they do not need special pumps or trainers as we do it in bare feet. It would also help if long hair could be tied up on this day. Gymnastics begins with floor work, looking at how to move in different ways and how to balance and gradually builds up to using the large apparatus. The children are encouraged to undress and dress themselves as much as possible, although we are on hand to help with buttons and zips and other tricky items, so any practice at getting themselves ready for school on a morning will really help develop their independence on PE days.

Well done Reception, a really great week. Get lots of rest over the weekend so you are ready to start learning letter sounds on Monday.

Mrs Copeland and Mrs McCarthy

Notices

- **Book Bags** - throughout the day children often do drawings that they would like to take home. We encourage the children to put them straight into their book bags to avoid upset when they are lost at the end of the day. To help them to do this independently we find having a small key ring attached to the handle helps them to recognise their own book bag. If your child does not yet have a key ring it would be useful for them to attach one over the weekend.
- **Monday 1st October** is our curriculum evening for parents where we will be providing information on the teaching styles used in Reception class. We run two sessions **6:30pm and 7:00pm**. A letter will follow with more information and a slip for you to return stating which session you would like to attend. We do provide a copy of the power point we use for anyone unable to attend.
- **Coats** - as children are given the option to play indoors or outdoors in all weathers could we ask that they have a coat in school every day with our ever changing weather forecasts.