



# Reception Class Autumn Newsletter

September 2015

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to Reception Class and Frances Olive Anderson Primary School! We hope you have all had a wonderful summer and are looking forward to the exciting times ahead. The children have had a fabulous first few days in school and are all settling in really well. They are having lots of fun exploring the classroom and making new friends.

The children are all doing fantastically well coming into school in the mornings. We know that for some children (and parents) this is a daunting and emotional time. Please be assured that any children who are initially finding this part of the day difficult settle quickly once inside and are soon busy, happily playing.

This letter aims to provide some useful information about the term ahead.

## Mornings

Starting on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September the Reception Class will line up on the playground with all of the other classes. I will be on the playground from 8:50am ready to greet the children and take them into the classroom when the bell rings at 8:55am. If for any reason you are late and the classroom gate is closed, please walk around to the office and a member of staff will bring your child to the classroom. This is to ensure that all arrivals at school are correctly registered.

## Water bottles

Please provide your child with a named water bottle to bring to school with them each day so that they can drink regularly throughout the day. We request that these bottles contain water only please and not other drinks. Children may of course bring juice to drink with their packed lunch. Milk and water are available for children having a school dinner.

## Labelling

Please ensure that all belongings (uniform, coats, lunch boxes, book bags, water bottles, shoes) are clearly labelled with your child's name. This helps your children to recognise their name and locate their own belongings but also enables misplaced items to be easily returned.

## Coats

Even though the weather is still fairly pleasant at the moment please ensure that your child has a coat in school with them each day as we will take the opportunity to go outside both rain and shine! We recognise that some children may find putting on and fastening their own coat difficult and we support children in practising and developing this skill in school. This is something that parents can practise at home also to help aid your child's independence.

## The Foundation Stage Curriculum

The Foundation Stage curriculum is topic based and for each half term there will be a new topic that the children will learn through. Please find below a brief overview of the curriculum coverage and some of the activities that we will be doing in class this term. I hope that you will find this helpful when talking with your child at home.

Our overall topic for this half term is 'All About Me' and 'People who help us'.

There are seven areas of learning in the foundation stage;

Three Prime areas:

- Communication and Language
- Physical development
- Personal, Social and Emotional development

and four Specific areas:

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the world
- Expressive Arts and Design.



In Communication, Language and Literacy we will be developing confidence in speaking and listening through stories, discussion and role-play activities. We will be learning new skills in letter and word recognition, as well as developing pencil control and beginning to form letters correctly.

In Mathematics we will be familiarising ourselves with numbers to 10 (and beyond as appropriate). The children will begin to count, recognise and sequence numbers to 10 as well as practise in writing them correctly.

Measurement, shape and space will be explored through lots of exciting role play and practical activities linked to our topics and personal experiences.

Our focus on the topic of 'All About Me' will include talking about our families, our feelings and our likes and dislikes. We will think about how we grow and change and will explore and develop our Knowledge and Understanding of the World by naming and learning about parts of the body and how to keep our bodies healthy.

As part of Expressive Arts and Design we undertake lots of art and music activities. We will paint portraits of ourselves and will learn how to use our bodies in different ways to move to music. We will learn and perform both familiar and new songs and explore percussion instruments.

Physical activities (P.E) are timetabled to take place on a Wednesday for Reception Class. Please ensure however that your child's P.E kit is in school throughout the week as we may also use it at other times. Most children leave their P.E bags on their pegs for the half term and they are sent home for the holidays to be washed.

### Supporting your child's learning at home.

We recognise the importance of the role that parents play in their child's education and appreciate the support that you provide at home. There are lots of ways that you can support your child's learning and development. Talking with your child about their daily activities at school and discussing our current topic together will enhance and extend your child's understanding and interest in what they are learning about at school.

Reading books and phonic prompt cards; with key letters for children to learn to recognise and know the letter name and sound for; will be sent home to help you support your child's learning - in due course.

### Twitter

Our class has a twitter page [www.twitter.com/YearRLea](http://www.twitter.com/YearRLea) please follow us to find out what we have been up to each day! I try to update the page regularly with posts and photos of our day at school. Please fill in a form with your twitter details in order for school to accept your follow request. Forms are available from the office.

We value the role that parents play in education and by working in partnership with you we can provide opportunities to inspire your child's learning.

Thank you in advance. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you need any other information or you have any concerns about your child.

Yours sincerely,

Miss H Ward