

Welcome to the second half of the Autumn Term. I hope you have had a lovely half term break. We have an exciting term ahead on the lead up to (dare I say it) Christmas and lots of new learning opportunities for your child to enjoy.

This term we will continue to build on the excellent progress the children made last term with their phonics, reading and maths. The children of Reception have now made firm friendships and positive relationships with the adults in school and have gained a familiarity with the routines and expectations of school life. It is within this sense of security that learning can be enjoyed and progress made.

Mrs Littlewood & Mrs Garley  
Class Teachers

### **Communication & Language, Listening, Understanding & Speaking**

Firstly, can I say thank you to those of you who were able to attend the Talk for Writing morning in the last week of term. The children adored having you there to see them in action and I hope the session was helpful to you in understanding how we embed language structures and inspire confidence in your child's ability to use familiar, sequenced stories in order to create their own.

### **Literacy**



As a class, the children will begin this term by hearing the classic story of *Puss in Boots*. As usual, they will be told this orally to enable them to visualise the characters and setting themselves. Children will follow the usual 'Hear, Map, Step, Speak' process to embed the sequence and story language then they will perform the story to the

rest of their class in order to link role play to the story telling process.

The children will also listen to and learn other stories throughout the term, so watch out for *Little Rabbit Foo Foo* and *Dear Zoo* which your child will innovate and create their own versions of.

As parents, you will again be given the opportunity to come and watch your child engage in a 'Talk for Writing' lesson, where we will show you a condensed lesson sequence from start to finish so that you can 'see how it works' for yourselves. This session will be between 9:45 and 10:15 on Wednesday 9 November. Please let us know if you are planning to attend.

### **Homework**

Thank you for your participation in the Busy Bee activities last term. The same types of activity will be sent home this term and, as before, you are welcome to annotate what your child says as they are engaging in the activity.

Please continue to request the **key words** to practise with your child at home. These are the high frequency words that will help your child when they come to write more independently as the year progresses.

### **Phonics**

This term Reception children will be learning the letter sounds (not the letter names) to i, n, p, g, o and c. With all of last term's sounds learnt they are beginning to blend sounds together, read short books and write CVC words (consonant, vowel consonant) eg: mat, sat, pat etc.

## Reading

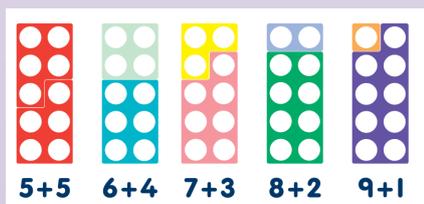
Your child will continue to have daily guided reading sessions in school and will also continue to have books sent home to read with you.

## Handwriting

We will continue to use the Nelson handwriting scheme to teach your child correct letter formations, sizing and to sit letters on lines. Children are taught how to hold their pencil correctly to help them have the most control over their formations. In order to support your child with this at home it can help to leave attractive writing materials in different areas of your home, brightly coloured card and pens help with this, at this stage any kind of mark that your child makes and ascribes meaning to is developing their writing skills so lots of praise is encouraged!

## Maths

### Number



We will continue to support your child's number knowledge this term through the use of Numicon apparatus.

This term Reception children will:

- Match Numicon shapes to numerals
- Copy Numicon shape patterns using everyday objects
- Continue to learn the cardinal values of numbers 1-10
- Explore the Numicon shapes through areas of the continuous provision
- Match the Numicon shapes by colour and shape
- Use the language of size
- Make Numicon crowns to familiarise them with Numicon shapes and their values
- Compare and order numbers 1-20

## Shape space and measurement

- Exploring characteristics of everyday objects and shapes

- Time sequencing activities to encourage the use of everyday language related to time
- Comparing distances
- Shop role-play designed to help encourage the use of everyday language related to money
- Measuring time in simple ways, eg: How many hops can you do when timed with a ten second egg timer?

The children will have a balance of adult-led and child-initiated activities throughout the school week. We are sensitive to the individual interests of the children which are used to support their learning across all areas of the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum.

## Understanding the world

### People and communities

The Reception children have the unique opportunity to experience the Key Stage 1 curriculum lessons linked to the play-based Early Years curriculum. This term the Key Stage 1 children will be learning about the life of Jesus in RE and continuing to explore The Great Fire of London in History along with other great fires that have taken place around the world.

## Technology

Children have computers and iPads available to them to use freely throughout the day with educational programmes relating to maths, reading, expressive arts and design and writing. Within the afternoon sessions children will again be given 1:1 time to learn how to use these programmes effectively.

## The World

In History this term, the year 1 and 2 children are learning about The Great Fire of London. Again, Reception children will be engaging in activities based around this theme with a more 'hands on' set of activities to support their learning.

As you know, our Christmas performance this year will be, 'The Lion King' so the children will be making African animal masks and props around an African wildlife theme. Thank you to those of you who have offered to come in as an extra pair of hands on our art day. We really appreciate your support.

### **Music**

Children will continue to learn the songs from 'The Lion King' ready to perform to you at Christmas. Some of these are in Zulu and are being taught to the children with actions.

### **Physical development**

Our PE sessions will be swimming with Mrs Ogden at Maidwell Hall on a Monday afternoon and a PE lesson every Thursday afternoon with Mr Smith.

We have a special treat this term because professional choreographer, 'Dancing Dave' is returning to Maidwell each week to teach dances to all of the children ready for the Christmas play. Please make sure your child has their PE kit in school every day for this.

Reception children also have free access to bikes, scooters and cars throughout the course of the school day in order to help them develop their gross motor skills. Their fine motor skills are developed through light box tracing, beading, threading and daily 'Dough Disco' activities to exercise their hands which, in turn helps to improve their pencil grip.

### **Personal, Social and Emotional Development**

This term we will be focussing on the school ethos of the five Rs of learning. The children will focus on being:

- Ready for learning
- Resilient in their learning
- Resourceful in their learning
- Reflective in their learning
- Responsible for their learning

These topics will be covered before assembly each day.

Please note that PE kits should be brought into school on a Monday and remain until Friday in case of an alteration to the timetable or an extra PE lesson.

It will, as you can see be a busy and fun term.

Please write your child's at-home achievements or special experiences on the bright stars which are intermittently put in their book bags. This enables us to work together to celebrate the unique experiences and achievements of your child.

If you have any questions about your child at school or the expectations in any area, please don't hesitate to speak to myself or Mrs Garley.

