



Dear Parents

Welcome to the first part of the Autumn Term. We hope you have had a lovely summer. We have a very varied and exciting term ahead and lots of new learning opportunities for your child to enjoy.

This term is geared towards settling your child into school, ensuring that they have high wellbeing and facilitating positive relationships between adults and peers through routine, following your child's interests throughout the provision and a high adult to child ratio.

Mrs Littlewood & Mrs Garley
Class Teachers

Communication & Language

Listening, Understanding & Speaking

Because Maidwell Primary School is a Storytelling School, the children will undertake their learning through a variety of different stories. This approach is underpinned by the extremely effective *Talk for Writing* approach, which proves that if children learn stories orally, it improves the quality of their writing. This is because storytelling develops the children's self-confidence as storytellers; it provides a bank of possibilities to draw upon and encourages the flow of story language and language patterns that they can use when re-telling and later when writing. **Research shows that children who are read to are more likely to succeed in school.**

As a whole class, the children will begin by hearing the classic tale of *Jack and The Beanstalk*. This story will be told orally to enable them to visualise the characters and setting themselves.



The Reception role-play area will reflect the setting of the story, with relevant costumes and props in order to extend language skills and to enable the exploration of new vocabulary through play. In turn, children will build new friendships. 'Positive relationships' are one of the key areas of the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum as it is from this secure basis that children will take risks with their learning and co-construct their understanding of new concepts with their peers. We will make story characters and props using collage and paint to link with the 'Expressive Art and Design' expectations of the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum.

The children will also listen to and learn other stories throughout the term, so watch out for *The Little Red Hen*, which children learn through creating a pictorial story map and using actions to internalise the sequence of events.

As parents, you will be given the opportunity to come in to school 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. You will be able to sign up for this at the parent meeting at 6pm on Thursday 14 September.

Homework

Your child will come home with a 'Busy Bee' book each Friday. You are welcome to annotate what your child has said, whilst completing the homework or any comments that they have made. This needs to be handed in the following Thursday of each week. The homework for the week will always be sent out on 'ParentMail' so that you will always have access to the task requirements.



Phonics

In the coming weeks we will begin our teaching of phonics, reading and letter formation. In order to learn more about the way in which we teach and to enable you to support your child fully at home, please attend the curriculum meeting as previously mentioned on 14th September at 6pm.

Reading

Very early on, your child will be sent home with a little reading book and a yellow reading record diary. The initial books do not always have words in them but please look at and discuss these books with your child and sign to say you have so that they can be given the next book in the series.

As your child learns their first sounds, they will be given books with the corresponding sounds in them to begin the process of learning to segment and blend sounds. You will be further informed of how this works in the after school parent meeting. Please do make every effort to attend this meeting as it will be a one-off opportunity for you to get to grips with the specialised way in which we teach all areas of the curriculum to your child which will in turn help you to effectively support their learning at home.

Handwriting

At Maidwell Primary School, we teach handwriting by means of the Nelson Handwriting Scheme. To ensure that your child experiences consistency with home and school learning please take note of the particular letter formation that this scheme advocates. This will help us to avoid your child spending time 'unlearning' alternative letter formations when they eventually begin to join their letters.

Aa Bb Cc Dd Ee
Ff/f Gg Hh Ii Jj
Kk/k Ll Mm Nn Oo
Pp Qq Rr Ss Tt Uu
Vv Ww Xx Yy Zz

Mathematics

Number

When we teach your child about number we use, amongst other resources, Numicon shapes. These shapes are designed to use the key strengths of young children to help them understand maths. These strengths include:

- Their ability to learn by doing
- Their ability to learn by seeing
- Their strong sense of pattern

The Numicon shapes will be placed in various areas of the learning environment to allow children to notice and create patterns and match corresponding amounts of objects the Numicon shapes. This ensures that the children's learning is reinforced throughout their areas of interest.

This term children will:

- Learn to recite number names and learn to count to 20 and beyond
- Learn the cardinal values of numbers 1-10
- Explore the Numicon shapes
- Match the Numicon shapes by colour and shape
- Use the language of size

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 children will be learning about *Changes within Living Memory*. We will start by looking at how a school day was different in the past and consider both the similarities and differences between modern day



school life and that of the 1940's. We will focus on changes in the home, particularly domestic life and how technology has impacted on this area. We will use our new knowledge to write a set of instructions detailing 'How to use a mangle'.

Technology

Children have computers 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 be given 1:1 time to learn how to use these programmes effectively. iPads, laptops, an interactive whiteboard and programmable toys such as bee-bots will also be made available to your child with particular learning foci at the centre.

The World

In geography this term, Key Stage 1 children will be learning about The World and the UK focussing on geographical locational knowledge. Special activities will be set up for the children of Reception appropriate to their current understanding and based upon EYFS learning goals. Children will make treasure maps to follow, look at and discuss maps and globes and talk about and reflect on places that they have visited and the climates and landscapes of these and modes of transport they used.

As our Christmas performance this year will be The Jungle Book by Rudyard Kipling, the children will have the opportunity to make animal masks and props based around an Indian wildlife theme as the Jungle book story is set in the Indian Seoni Jungle.

Music

I hope you all had a wonderful summer break and that the children are looking forward to starting the new term. A very warm welcome to the children starting reception. This half term focuses on the development of the singing voice, listening skills, aural memory and physical skills. We will use words and phrases relating

to using their voices in different ways, for example singing, whispering, humming and words relating to singing techniques, such as posture. Discussion of and games to show the musical elements of high, low, quiet, loud, fast and slow will also be included.

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 Gordon.

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. Please ensure your child has kit for indoor and outdoor PE including outdoor trainers.

The unit of work this half term will focus on **Personal Skills**, with a physical focus on *Coordination: Floor Movement Patterns* for the first 3 lessons and on *Static Balance: 1 Leg Standing* for the remaining lessons. The class learning goals will be

- I can follow instructions, practise safely and work on simple tasks by myself.
- I enjoy working on simple tasks with help.
- I try several times if at first I don't success and I ask for help when appropriate.
- I know where I am with my learning and I have begun to challenge myself.

PSHE

This term we will be focussing on the school ethos of the five Rs of learning and encouraging a 'growth mind-set' in children.

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.

In assemblies will focus assemblies on the development of a Growth Mindset. Children with a growth mindset have a 'can do' attitude and are not afraid to make mistakes. We will continue to reinforce that we learn from our mistakes and are successful when we keep trying.



Weekly Stars

To celebrate your child's at-home achievements in school and in order to work in strong partnership with you, large card stars will be placed into your child's book bag for you to write their achievements on. These are then read out in front of the class and celebrated by putting these stars on display.

The content of the stars is up to you. It could be an area of your child's independence that you are encouraging to promote in them such as sleeping in their own bed all night, riding a bike without stabilisers or helping to tidy up.

It is also lovely to share special events that have taken place in their lives such as a trip to Legoland, a special family member visiting or holding an interesting animal at a zoo. Please write this on your child's star.

When the school *and* home environment share your child's achievements we are valuing their unique milestones and experiences together. In this way, your child will feel confident and celebrated everywhere that they go!

Toys from Home

We encourage children **not** to bring toys in from home as experience has shown that they can get lost or damaged at school and can sometimes be a distraction to the children during the school day. This is with the exception of comforter toys, which may aid the transition from home to school in which case this is understandable and absolutely fine.



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

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

