



Curriculum Information - Reception

Autumn Term 1 – 2nd September – 23rd October

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are very excited to be welcoming you all into Reception this year. We have lots of amazing things planned for this half-term. Our topic this half-term is “Ourselves”. For this topic, we will explore themes such: we are all different, our likes and dislikes, what we are good at, who is important to us and what makes us special.

Our PE and Learning Outside the Classroom day this half-term will be on Friday.

We will visit our school library on Fridays too. Library books and reading practice books will be changed on Fridays only.

Communication and Language	<p>We will be practising how to listen to one another and take it in turns to speak, using a loud enough voice to be heard. The children be encouraged to start joining ideas together by using ‘and’ and ‘because’ and answer ‘why’ questions. We will read daily as a whole class and the children will be encouraged to listen to the story carefully and participate in a group discussion.</p> <p>We will be learning to greet one another and respond to greetings like ‘good morning’ loudly and politely.</p>
Physical Development	<p>The children will be working on their fine and gross motor skills through play and guided activities. They will be given the opportunity to choose if they would like to play inside or outside for most of the day.</p> <p>In our Friday PE lessons, we will be developing physical, social, emotional and thinking skills, such as different ways of travelling through space, teamwork skills, independence, perseverance, confidence but also making decisions and reflecting on experiences.</p> <p>Part of Physical Development is health and self-care and this is where we will support the children in making healthy choices and being able to use the toilet independently.</p>
Personal, Social and Emotional Development	<p>We will be encouraging children to come into school independently and start playing with their peers in a group scenario. The children will be encouraged to select their own activities and resources. In circle time, we will discuss our rules and the behaviour expectations of Reception. We will spend lots of time getting to know each other and building up our confidence to make friends.</p> <p>We will be learning about feelings and how to express and manage them. Children will have an opportunity to reflect on how they feel during self-registration in the morning.</p>
Literacy	<p>We will start our phonics sessions in the second week of school and introduce 4</p>

	<p>letter sounds a week. We will cover the following letter sounds/phonemes in the Autumn 1 term: s a t p i n m d g o c k c k e u r h b f l.</p> <p>We will also learn how to form the taught letters correctly.</p> <p>We will be making our own versions of our favourite story books.</p> <p>We will start recording some of our learning in our writing books, in which we will begin to label our pictures with some familiar letters. There are numerous mark-making opportunities within our classroom provision and we will encourage the children to access them independently.</p> <p>We will also start reading books matched to children's phonics ability three times per week with each child in small groups.</p>
Mathematics	<p>In Mathematics, we will be concentrating on numbers to 10. We will practice subitising (telling the number of up to 5 or so objects quickly without counting). We will learn how to count to and back from 10, count objects in a line, count out a certain amount of objects from a larger group and using the language of 'more' and 'less'. We will promote kinaesthetic learning and play games to make learning Mathematics as fun and practical as possible.</p> <p>We will also be learning to compare objects and discuss their size, length, weight and capacity.</p>
RE	<p>In RE, we will be learning about our mission statement and what it means to be a member of Holy Family.</p> <p>Our first RE topic is Creation and covenant and we will be reading the story of creation from the Bible, focussing on the fact that all that God created is good, that we all are brothers and sisters in God's family, which we join through baptism, and that our mission is to look after God's world, including caring for one another. We will learn the words and actions of the Sign of the Cross and our class prayers.</p> <p>The first theme in our collective worship will also be 'Creation'. The children will start leading their own collective worship sessions by choosing a way to gather for worship, a response to the Biblical text and a 'mission' - a simple task or act of kindness inspired by the scripture passage they will listen to on the day.</p>
Understanding of the world	<p>Our 'All about me' topic will allow the children to discuss the similarities and differences between themselves and others in the class. We will also spend a lot of time learning in our 'outdoor classroom' and exploring topics like changes in nature/autumn. The children will be using their senses, exploring, investigating and recording their experiences. We have an investigation table, which will be set up regularly based on the children's interests. Forest school will take place on a Friday.</p>

	Our history topic will let us reflect on changes within our lifetime and look at some images and objects from the past.
Expressive Arts and Design	<p>We will be learning how to put an apron on, use a paintbrush and use the water and paint pots correctly. The children will be learning to make various lines with different mark-making implements and creating self-portraits and representations of their families.</p> <p>The children will have the choice of what toys they would like to play with and can use toys in different areas to build up their role play. We have a 'work in progress' table which the children will be able to use for any unfinished models and this will encourage planning and reviewing skills.</p> <p>Our fortnightly music sessions with Ms Clifford will provide them with opportunities to sing and use instruments.</p>
Home Learning	<p>The children are expected to read daily. We will visit the school library and on Thursdays children will have an opportunity to choose a new book each week, as long as they return the book on loan from the previous week.</p> <p>In week 4 children will start accessing levelled books as part of our phonics scheme, which they will be able to read/discuss independently. There is guidance for parents in the back cover on how to best benefit from those books. In short, those books are to be easily accessible for a child to give them an experience of what it feels like to be a competent reader who can decode and comprehend the text with ease. The books are to be read at least 3 times with a different focus: to practice decoding words, to use expression and to show text comprehension.</p> <p>Please, keep all books in children's book bags daily, in a zip wallet provided. Please, do not put water bottles, clothing or any other items that might damage books in the book bags. There is a charge for a damaged or lost book.</p> <p>Home learning will be set on Google Classroom every Friday once the children are settled into school.</p>

Please, continue to check the school newsletter, school website and Facebook page for important dates and information.

Please ensure you have brought in a pair of Wellington boots.

Please ensure your child has a water bottle, reading book bag and coat in school every day.

Finally, please make sure that EVERYTHING has your child's name on.

Should you have any questions or anything you wish to discuss please email reception@holyfamily.herts.sch.uk or phone the school to make an appointment. The reception mailbox is for non-urgent matters only as it is not accessed during school hours.

Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to working together this year to support your child.

Miss Kieś and Mrs Lawrence