



## Reception Thames Class Curriculum Newsletter

### Autumn One

2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are enjoying getting to know the children in reception class and have been very impressed by how they are settling in. They have come into class confidently in the morning and have been getting to know the routines of the day. We have seen lots of new friendships developing and they have been exploring their learning environment and getting to know the adults in the class too.

Over the next few weeks, the children will be given their own 'carpet spot' to sit on, this is where your child will sit when it is 'carpet time'. These spaces will be chosen when we have got to know the children a bit more and we will sit them where we think they will be able to focus well. You may also hear the children talking about being a 'tidy up inspector', this is a tool that we use during tidy up time. If a child tries their best at tidy up time, they may be chosen to be a tidy up inspector (two are chosen during each session). Their job is to check how well everyone is tidying up and then they choose two children who will be the inspectors next time.

### Reception Baseline Assessment

This year, we are required to carry out a baseline assessment for each child entering reception class. This is a short, interactive and practical assessment of your child's early literacy, communication, language and mathematics skills. It will be carried out on a one-to-one basis by Miss Coulter over the next few weeks. More information on this can be found here:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1004560/2021\\_Information\\_for\\_parents\\_reception\\_baseline\\_assessment.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1004560/2021_Information_for_parents_reception_baseline_assessment.pdf)

At Shire Oak formative assessment has always been a part of our practice to make sure we know the next steps children need to take at school. We will not be telling the children that this is an assessment nor will it be the only source of information for us as we plan your child's learning journey. As children settle into school life they show us more and more of what they can do and their RBA outcomes will in no way limit our ambitions for your child.

In **literacy**, children will spend a few weeks learning about and exploring sounds (hearing and recognising different noises in our environment, identifying rhyming patterns, etc.) before going on to learn the letters and sounds of Phase 2 in Phonics. There will be a meeting later this half term, that shows how we teach phonics in reception and how you can support your child with their reading and writing. I will keep you posted of the time and date for this. We will also be giving the children 'reading books' over the next few weeks. For most children these will be wordless and guidance will be given on how to use these. Their books will be changed once a week, on a particular day. This will be written in their reading records, which will be given out later.

We will also be focussing on one story every few weeks, so that the children get to know it thoroughly. We act it out, draw a story maps of it, add actions and may change some aspects of it too. Each week we will also focus on a poem or rhyme.

The children will be visiting the school library once a week from Tuesday. Each week they will get to choose a book to share at home. Please return their library book each Tuesday, so they can get another one.

In **maths**, we teach using a mastery approach, ensuring that all children have a deep, secure and adaptable understanding of mathematical concepts. Over the next few weeks we will be focusing on matching, sorting and comparing amounts, using vocabulary such as; more, fewer, same and equal. We will also be comparing size, mass and capacity and exploring pattern. Then we will focus on numbers one to five and their composition and looking at circles, triangles and shapes with four sides. We will also cover positional language and time in our learning before Christmas. Much of the maths learning that the children do takes place in the areas of provision, both indoors and out, giving it greater purpose and meaning. We also regularly use the CBeebies series 'Numberblocks' in our teaching, which the children love. There will be a maths meeting for parents later in the year.

**Tapestry:** We use this online system to record 'wow' moments and other evidence of your child's learning. We also use it for announcements and messages. If you haven't signed up to this please follow this link <https://forms.gle/eRHYqukGMHeFTcwC7> . Lots of you have signed up but have not activated your account. This might be due to the activation link going to your junk file on your email. I will send out more activation links and send a text when I have, so you can check your email. This system also allows you to upload photos or videos of your child and let us know what they get up to at home.

**Clothes or equipment.** It's been great to see so many water bottles, labelled jumpers and book bags this week. As mentioned at home visits and our meetings for new parents/ carers, we want to give the children as many valuable opportunities as possible to explore their environment and different materials (whatever the weather!). This means that they may well come home looking slightly the worse for playing in mud/ clay/ paints! Although we do give the children aprons, please remember that this is what uniforms are for. It would be good for the children to have a pair of wellingtons that can stay in school and a pair of waterproof trousers too. Please make sure your child has a coat with them every day as well.

We will be starting our weekly PE lessons on Tuesday, the children will not need their PE kits yet, but I will let you know when we will start changing for PE.

**Milk:** Just a reminder that if your child would like milk, you need to sign them up for it. The website is: <https://www.coolmilk.com/>

Occasionally families may decide to bring in treats for the class when it is their child's birthday. There is absolutely no expectation to do this, but if you do, it would be preferred that it is a healthy option.

This term we also have a teaching student in reception class, her name is Beth Dalton (Miss Dalton to the children).

### **How you can help**

In r' eception, we do not give the children half-termly homework, however, they may be given the occasional challenge related to their learning. At this stage, any amount of sharing stories and developing their love of books is great. It would also be good if you could help your child to become more independent by encouraging them to dress and undress independently (this is particularly helpful when we start to change for PE). Also, for them to be able to put their own coat on and zip or button it up. Obviously, staff are always there to help children who require it.

There will be notices in the classroom window, should you want to know more about our week-by-week learning in Maths and Phonics. Otherwise, feel free to see myself, Mrs Atwal or Mrs Bennett if you would like anything further. We are always interested in how children are getting on with their learning at home and want to work with you to keep your child safe, happy and learning well. Do arrange to see us by catching us at the start or the end of the day or by asking at the office to make an appointment.

We are looking forward to a fantastic term.

Thank you

Miss Coulter, Mrs Atwal, Mrs Bennett and Miss Dalton.

