

Early Year Unit: Reception Newsletter – Autumn 1

Welcome

I am absolutely delighted to welcome all the new children to our Hazel Leys Reception class. Along with Miss Witton and Mrs Pritchard, I am excited to get to know your children and help them grow and learn during their first year at school. We have an exciting and busy year ahead and I am looking forward to working with you. Please feel free to speak to me or the other Early Years staff if you have any questions or queries.

Miss Wareing

Autumn 1 Focus

Our first terms learning will be focused around getting to know the children. This unit of work is called "All About Me". The children will be learning about what makes them special, who is in their family and who can help us in the community.

We will start the year by reading lots stories that explore different families, such as "Super Duper You!", "I Love Me!", "All Are Welcome" and "Real Superheroes".



Phonics

In order to support your child with their reading and writing skills, they will be taking part in daily phonics lessons. During these lessons they will be learning about the pure sounds that letters make and how to blend these sounds together to read and write words.

Phonics



At Hazel Leys, we use the *Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised* scheme. Your child will come home with a phonics book which will be updated with a practice sheet every time they learn a new sound.

We will be holding a phonics workshop for parents on **Tuesday 3rd October** to provide more information about how we teach phonics, how it supports your child and how you can use phonics at home. More information will be shared closer to the time.

Literacy - Writing

During this term we will be encouraging the children in Reception to write their names independently, using name cards to support. As they become more confident with their phonics, the children will be encouraged to write words using the sounds they have learnt.



As we progress through this term, the children will start listening out for initial and end sounds in words, which will match their phonic knowledge. Our written work will be linked to the wide range of books that we share as a class.

Literacy - Reading

As your child becomes more confident with their phonetic sounds, they will take part in weekly reading lessons with the adults in school.



Your child will take part in 3 reading lessons a week where they will learn how to decode word, read with prosody and develop their comprehension. On a Friday, your child will take home their book to read at home. Please read the book repeatedly to help your child develop their confidence and fluency.

Alongside their reading book, your child will choose a 'Reading for Pleasure' book to take home. This is a book to be shared with the adults at home. There is no expectation that they can read this book independently.

Maths

We LOVE to count in Early Years, we count everything and sing lots of number rhymes to help us remember the order of numbers when rote counting. During this first term, we will be looking at how early numbers are represented, counting objects and exploring 2D shapes. Your child will be encouraged to use a wide range of mathematical resources to build numbers and solve simple number problems.



In Early Years we do lots of work with Numicon and NumberBlocks to help with the children's counting. There is a CBeebies program called NumberBlocks that you could watch together at home. This uses the same idea that the blocks increase in size according to their numerical value. We also explore the concept of subitising, which is where children can automatically recognise an amount without needing to count the objects.

Communication and Language

In Early Years we focus on getting the children to come to activities or to sit and listen to stories songs and rhymes, joining in for short periods of time. Young children sustain attention for differing amounts of time. We gradually increase the amount of time that the children sit for, during the year.



To support your child with their language, we start the year by learning a new nursery rhyme/poem. At the end of the week, the new rhyme will be sent home for your child to share with you. By learning these each week, your child will have a wider vocabulary and be more confident with their performance skills.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

In Early Years we offer the children lots of opportunities to become independent and build respectful relationships with their peers. We will have discussions about our feeling and support the children to understand what they are feeling and how to regulate their emotions.



Part of this area of learning includes independence in managing their personal hygiene. The children will be given lots of opportunities to develop these skills, such as; going to the toilet, washing their hands, dressing and undressing, pulling up a zip, carrying equipment safely and managing risks.

Physical Development

At school we will be practising ways to move, encouraging fine motor activities, such as; using scissors, pencils and cutlery, encouraging good posture when sitting at the table or on the floor and practicing ball skills. We also have dough disco sessions to strengthen hand grip and pencil control.



Our PE lessons will be on Friday.

Children need to have an Academy PE t-shirt, shorts or jogging bottoms/leggings depending on the weather and an Academy Jumper. All children must be wearing trainers. Please also ensure they do not wear any jewellery and that long hair is tied back.

Understanding the World

This term we will be talking about our families, cultures, and where we live. Throughout the year we will look at seasonal changes. The children will have the opportunity to go on sensory walks where they look at the changes in the natural world. They will also be using these walks to collect items which will go towards a whole class seasonal display which we will update and return to during the year.



Expressive Arts and Design

In Early Years, we consider expressive arts to include arts and crafts, role play, playing with home corner toys such as dolls and play/mud kitchens, building and creating structures to support small world play, dancing and singing. There are so many ways that our children can express themselves. We provide all these opportunities in class throughout the year.



This term we will have a home corner for the children to explore, we will create pictures of our families and make different crafts that link to our class books.

Helping your child learn at home

- Daily reading using your child's school reading book and 'Reading for Pleasure' book.
- Phonics practice using your child's phonics book.
- Encourage your child to dress and zip up their coat independently.





Skills Builder

The Skills Builder Universal Framework provides a common language for building essential skills with children and young people.

Research shows that building essential skills supports social and emotional wellbeing, learning and academic outcomes and careers and opportunities



Rewards

The children will receive 'Dojo Points' as reward for good behaviour, work and attitude. Points can be 'spent' on prizes periodically.



Class information

Class Teacher: Miss Wareing

Teaching Assistants: Miss Witton and Mrs Pritchard

In order to keep books and letters in good condition we ask that all children bring a bag to school every day.

Please remember to name all your child's property, including school jumpers or cardigans. We request that all children bring a named water bottle to school every day and as the weather is warmer a sun hat and sun cream.



As you can imagine our learning in Early Years is going to involve lots of messy play and food exploration. We will also be learning about seasonal changes so there will be lots of opportunities for splashing in lots of puddles. Please ensure that your child has spare named clothes on their peg and wellington boots.

Please remember if you are making your child a packed lunch, we ask you not to put anything in that contains nuts.

Dates for the diary!

Monday 4th September - Friday 8th September- **Home visits** for Reception children

Monday 11th September- Reception in **part time** all week

Monday 18th September- Reception children staying for lunch, **8:45am till 1:15pm**

Monday 25th September- Reception children start **full time**



Tuesday 3rd October – Phonics Workshop for Parents

Tuesday 17th October - Parents Consultation Evening – 3.00pm – 6.30pm

Wednesday 18th October - Parents Consultation Evening - 3.00pm – 5.30pm

Friday 20th October school closes to pupils for Half Term