

Early Year Unit: Reception Newsletter – Spring 1

Welcome

Welcome back to a new term at Hazel Leys. I hope you all have an enjoyable Christmas break and a relaxing start to the New Year. Thank you to everyone for your support last term. We hope you enjoyed the Christmas play and were as proud of your children as we were.

Miss Wareing

Spring 1 Focus

This terms learning will be all about “Space”. The children will learn about our sun and how it warms our planet, how gravity keeps us from falling off the ground, about people who study the stars including Galileo and Caroline Herschel, about astronauts including Mae Jaimeson, about the International Space Station and the planets in our solar system.

We will look at stars and constellations, the Apollo 11 mission to the moon and the Mars 2020 mission that has put a rover on the red planet. The learning this term aims to inspire the children to think beyond their immediate environment and begin to ask scientific questions about what we know and understand about space.

To end our learning this term, we will be going on a class trip to the Space Centre on Monday 9th February 2026. A letter was sent out before the Christmas holiday with information about payment and giving consent.

Phonics

During this term, some of the children will move on to phases 3 phonic sounds with the *Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised* scheme. Following on from our assessments, some of the children will use this term to recap our Autumn term’s learning. Your child will continue to come home with a phonics book which will be updated with a practice sheet every time they learn a new sound. Please visit our school website to get up-to-date information about phonics at Hazel Leys.



<https://www.hazelleysacademy.org/page/?title=Phonics&pid=219>

Literacy - Writing

During this term we will work with the children to hear the sounds that are in words. We will look at initial, middle and end sounds.



During our guided writing sessions, children will be encouraged to listen for all sounds they can hear in the words they want to write. They will also be given daily opportunities to do this independently.

Our written work will be linked to the wide range of books that we share as a class, such as ‘Astro Girl’, ‘How to Catch a Star’ and ‘Zoom to the Moon’.

Literacy - Reading

Your child will continue to take part in 4 reading lessons a week where they will learn how to decode word, read with prosody and develop their comprehension.



Please read the book repeatedly to help your child develop their confidence and fluency. Don’t forget to **write in their reading records** to let us know when they have been reading at home. If you are having any issues with the eBooks, please speak to a member of staff.

Your child will still choose a ‘Reading for Pleasure’ book to take home at the end of each week. This is a book to be shared with the adults at home. There is no expectation that they can read this book independently.

Maths

This term we will be learning about numbers within 10, including counting, adding and subtracting numbers. We will continue to use part-whole models to build up the children’s understanding of how addition and subtraction connect. We will also spend time looking a sorting shapes and learning about calendar and time.





The children will use lots of hands-on resources to support with their maths work and our continuous provision will be set up so that children can practice mathematic skills they have already learnt in order to deepen their understanding.

Communication and Language

This term we will be focusing on how to retell a story. We will be encouraging the children to act being an astronaut and focusing on using vocabulary that we have taught in our English and Understanding the World lessons.



Personal, Social and Emotional Development

This term, we will continue to develop our understanding of our emotions as well as providing the children with plenty of opportunities to work collaboratively. Each week, we will have our zones of regulation lesson, where we teach children about different emotions and talk about how we can express them.



Physical Development

To continue to strengthen our gross and fine motor skills we have dough disco and Get Squiggling sessions to strengthen body control, hand grip and pencil control.



Our **PE lessons** continue to be on **Monday**. Children are to **attend school in their PE kit**.

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 exploring seasonal changes as the weather gets colder so the children can observe how winter changes the world around them. We will also be exploring Chinese New Year to compare how people celebrate around the world.



Expressive Arts and Design

We will be linking all of our Arts and Design activities to our unit of Space. Children will use papier mache to make their own planets, as well as creating a whole class display about space. They will also create stars and rockets using a range of materials and will be encouraged to use them in their imaginative play. The children will also be making Chinese crafts as part of our Chinese New Year learning.



This term we will have a range of role play opportunities for the children to explore such as a rocket and the International Space Station.

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 Coupland and Mrs Clough

- **Forest School:** We will be continuing Forest school sessions this half term. Forest School **has moved to a Tuesday from January**. Children are to come into school in clothes for forest school, named wellies and a named coat or all-in-one weather suit. Please could the children have spare socks to change into after the session. The first session after Christmas will be **Tuesday 13th January**.
- **Evidence Me:** Please check Evidence Me regularly for updates on what we are doing in reception!
- Please remember if you are making your child a packed lunch, we ask you not to put anything in that contains nuts and to make it a **healthy selection of food**.
- Please could we ask that all children bring in a **change of clothes**. These can be kept in a bag on their pegs. Staff will inform you if they have had to change your child.



Thank you for your support with these matters

Dates for the diary!



Monday 5th January – Teacher Training Day – School closed to pupils

Tuesday 6th January – School reopens to pupils

Thursday 15th January – Grow a reader parent workshop – 3:20pm

Monday 19th to Thursday 22nd January – Maths drops in parent sessions (more information to follow)



Monday 9th February – Reception Trip to the Space Centre

Monday 9th to Friday 13th February – Children's Mental Health week

Friday 13th February – School closes for half term

Grow a Reader

HAZEL LEYS ACADEMY

Join us for our Parent/ Guardian workshops.
Six individual workshops across the year.

Learn how to support your child's reading at home in a safe, supportive space.
Enjoy the flexibility to join the workshops that best support your child's learning journey.

3:20-3:45pm in the school hall

- o Thursday 18th September – Building strong foundations –
- o Thursday 12th November – Reading-book top-tips –
- o Thursday 15th January – Growing vocabulary and language skills
- o Thursday 19th March – Developing accurate readers
- o Thursday 7th May – Understanding reading development
- o Thursday 2nd July – Fostering a love of reading

Further information will be provided about each session throughout the year before you register to book.



Special Educational Needs



Information for Parents

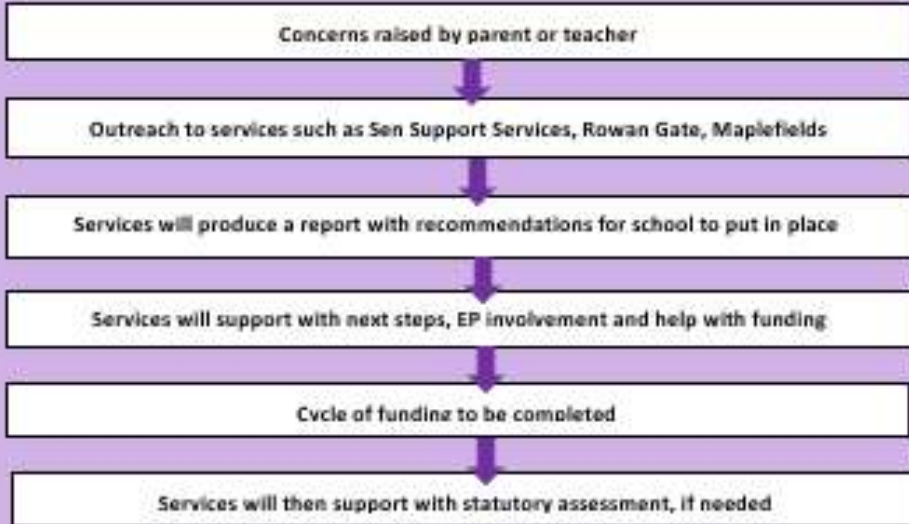
What are Special Educational Needs?

Some children have difficulties that mean they don't learn in the same way or at the same rate as other children. For example, they have a speech difficulty that makes it hard for them to be understood or express their ideas and causes problems with learning letters and sounds (phonics), that can make learning to read difficult.

These children need special support to help them to learn and to achieve.

They may need this support for a short time or for a longer period, but during this time they will be part of our Special Educational Needs (SEN) register and we will keep a close eye on their progress, look carefully at what special support they need and keep in close touch with their parents.

Hazel Leys Academy SEND Protocol



Who do I talk to if I think my child has Special Needs?

Your child's class teacher

They will be able to listen to your concerns and discuss with you how your child is managing at school.

They will discuss your concerns with the SENDCo.



The SENDCo (Special Educational Needs & Disability Co-Ordinator)

Miss Kamel is always happy to discuss any concerns with parents.

You can arrange to see her by contacting the school office or by sending an email to:

akamel@hazelleysacademy.org

What happens if my child has Special Needs?

If your child is thought to have special needs, this will be discussed with you and the child may be placed on the SEND register. This is a list of children who need to be closely monitored and who may need additional help.

Very few children with SEN need one-to-one help in school. Most of them can make progress in class with teachers who are aware of their difficulties and know how to adapt their teaching to suit them.

Many (but not all) children on the SEN register will have some small group time each week to help them with their particular difficulty (e.g. a language group or a reading group).

Communication with parents

- Parents of children on the SEN register must be given opportunities to meet with the teacher and/or SENDCo to discuss their child's progress at least 3 times a year. This can be at parents evening or at additional meetings.
- Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs)
These give parents a more central role in discussing and deciding what their child needs and a framework of expectations through which to support the child's needs.

What can Hazel Leys Academy offer children with Special Needs?

- A commitment to helping every child make progress and being happy at school.
- A range of interventions to help children overcome the barriers to their learning.
- Adaptions in the classroom that help children learn in a way that suits them.
- Referral to support agencies such as Speech and Language Therapists or Specialist Teaching Service.
- Regular reviews between parents, Teacher and SENDCo to discuss the children's needs and progress.