



Dear Parents/Carers

We would like to wish you all a very 'Happy New Year' and to thank you so much for the wonderful gifts and cards we received this Christmas.

We are very happy with the children's progress and would like to take this opportunity to thank you for working together with us to support and extend their learning.

Below is a summary of the Spring Term's Curriculum, highlighting the skills and knowledge that we aim to develop.

	Curriculum covered this term
<p>Communication & Language</p> <p>Literacy</p>	<p>The children will continue to bring reading books home to share with you. In addition to the reading books and phonics books, we will be sending a booklet with the high frequency key words that the children will need to be able to recognise on sight. We will continue to practise cursive handwriting through class based activities and to develop the children's independent experimental writing. Children will continue to learn letter sounds and they will be encouraged to apply their knowledge of sounds in reading and in written work. We will be sharing poems and stories and engaging the children in role play and drama. In particular, we will be looking at stories and poems about space, traditional tales. Later this term we will be holding a Writing Meeting to share in greater detail the ways in which we teach and develop writing in Reception.</p>
<p>Mathematics</p>	<p>This term's focus will be on counting, adding, subtracting and estimating. The children will also explore the uses and vocabulary of position, time, weight, length, direction and capacity. We will be solving problems using money and exploring patterns and shapes.</p>
<p>Understanding the World</p>	<p>This term we will be finding out about Space and Winter. We will also focus on scientific investigations linked to traditional tales. For example, when learning about the story of The Gingerbread Man we will explore the suitability of different materials for keeping his sandwiches dry. We will learn about Chinese New Year and the festivals of Passover and Easter. We will continue to use ICT to develop skills across all the areas of learning. The children will use Bee-Bots and computers to support their learning and have great fun! They will also learn to take photographs using the digital cameras and iPads.</p>
<p>Physical Development</p>	<p>Val Sabin's Dance Programme will be used to explore creative movement. In gymnastics we will develop floor work and apparatus skills as well as using body parts in different ways to create imaginative shapes and movement in different directions. We will also be practising how to throw, catch, roll and kick different objects. We will be using the bikes, scooters and climbing frames.</p>
<p>Personal, Social</p>	<p>Through discussions, we will encourage children to reflect on issues of right</p>

and Emotional Development	and wrong, fairness and justice. There will be an emphasis on taking turns and listening to others' points of view. We will praise positive behaviour, especially when children 'have a go' at new tasks or demonstrate their capacity to share and empathise. Circle time discussions are a time when children can talk about their experiences, views, cultures and beliefs. The children will also be setting their own personal goals.
Expressive Arts and Design	Children will continue to have a choice of creative activities, working with modelling materials, paint, drawing and collage materials. We shall be looking at paintings and discussing children's thoughts and feelings about them. Children will explore and investigate the different sounds of instruments, listen to music and learn a variety of songs, some of which will be in different languages.

Learning Outside

We will be encouraging the children to move freely between the inside and outside areas throughout the day in order to access the full range of learning activities. Children need to be dressed appropriately each day. Please continue to encourage your child to dress and undress independently.

Other Notes

We continue to welcome your support with your child's homework. Would you please send in your child's school bag every day and check it regularly.

If you are interested in coming in to read a story to the children please see the sign-up sheets on the classroom door.

Please remember to send in a named water bottle each day and boxes of tissues are still much appreciated!

On Fridays we will continue to have a 'show and tell' session where children can bring in something they would like to share with the class. This might be a photograph, picture, book, toy etc. These will be kept safely in the cupboard for the day, but nothing too precious please!

When it is your child's birthday, they are welcome to bring in a small treat to share with the class – e.g. individual cupcakes, packets of raisins, stickers etc. It helps if there are thirty of the same item to avoid disappointment!

We welcome any small donations of junk materials e.g. cardboard boxes, tubes, yoghurt pots, corks, scrap paper, material, costume jewellery, newspaper etc. No toilet rolls please.

If your child has been sick or has had diarrhoea they must stay home for 48 hours after the last episode. This is extremely important to prevent bugs from spreading to other children and staff.

There is also a rota for helping with admin type jobs once a week (Thursdays 2.30-3.25pm).

A few dates for your diary:

Parents' Evenings: **to be confirmed for Reception classes**

Writing Meeting: Thursday 25th February 2.30-3.15pm

Here's to another fun filled successful term!

Yours sincerely

Mrs Elena Kyriacou, Ms Mandie Griffin, Mrs Fiona Moffatt, Mrs Shanhila Umer

The Reception Team