



## Reception Autumn Term Topic Letter

Dear Parents/Carers

The Reception Team would like to welcome you and your children to Tetherdown. Our aims for the first term are:

- To get to know the children and let them get to know each other.
- To get them into a simple routine.
- To look at the skills and knowledge the children already have, then decide on the next steps for their learning.

The children will spend their day choosing from various play activities set up indoors and outdoors. The children will also participate in various adult guided activities.

	<b>Curriculum covered this term</b>
<p>Communication &amp; Language</p> <p>Literacy</p>	<p>In this first term the emphasis is on developing early reading skills through learning letter sounds and names. The children will also be given opportunities to experiment with writing and practise early cursive handwriting skills. After half term they will bring home reading scheme books once a week as well as a library book. The children will be encouraged to discuss their experiences and create stories. We will be holding a Reading and Writing Meeting for parents and carers on Thursday 22nd October at 2:15pm to share in greater detail the ways in which we teach reading in Reception.</p>
<p>Mathematics</p>	<p>Our focus will be on early number concepts, progressing to simple addition and subtraction. The children will also develop language associated with measurement and will name and sort 2D shapes. Later in the term we will be holding a Maths Meeting to share in greater detail the ways in which we teach maths in Reception.</p>
<p>Understanding the World</p>	<p>Our topic for the first half term will be 'All About Me' and the children will learn about each other and we will talk about our families and look at special events such as birthdays, Rosh Hashanah, Diwali. After half-term we will learn about Autumn and the changing seasons and explore the topic of Space. We have organised a learning walk to Highgate Woods on November 5<sup>th</sup>. We will also find out about Christmas and Hanukah celebrations.</p>
<p>Physical Development</p>	<p>At the beginning of the term we will encourage the children to listen and respond to simple instructions, to find ways of using different body parts and to think about the space around them. We will practise throwing, rolling, catching and kicking small and large balls. Through dance we will explore the children's individual creative movement. We will also discuss the importance of exercise and its effects on their bodies.</p>
<p>Personal, Social and Emotional Development</p>	<p>Through circle time we encourage the children to listen to each other and to share their feelings. We help them to develop an understanding of the ways in which we can be kind and fair to each other and make friends. We aim to help the children understand and respect that people have different needs, views,</p>

	cultures and beliefs. The children will also be involved in agreeing codes of behaviour.
Expressive Arts and Design	The children will experiment with a variety of media in creating artwork. They will be involved in colour mixing, making models and collage. The children will use constructional play equipment such as Lego, Polydron and wooden blocks. We will be singing simple songs, developing listening skills and responding to music through movement. We will also be exploring the different ways in which a variety of instruments can be played.

## Other Notes

- Please check your child's school bag regularly for notes or letters.
- On Fridays we have a 'show and tell' session and 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!
- After half-term we will be inviting parents to come in and read some stories to the class on Thursday afternoons. If you would like to come in then please sign the list, which will be on the classroom window after the half-term holiday.
- 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.
- We would also be grateful if you could send in a box of tissues, now that the weather is changing, as we are expecting lots more runny noses!

### **A few dates for your diary:**

- Reading and Writing meeting: 22<sup>nd</sup> October -1:45-2:30
- Highgate Woods Trip: 5<sup>th</sup> November- 10:00-12:00
- Parents' Evenings: 18<sup>th</sup> November / 26<sup>th</sup> November- 4:00-7:00
- Christmas Nativity: 11<sup>th</sup> December- 9:10 -9:50
- Maths Meeting: 19<sup>th</sup> November- 2:15-3:15
- Unicorn Theatre Trip: Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2015

We look forward to working with you and your children and to an exciting first term!

With Best Wishes

**The Reception Team**