

Reception Class Newsletter

5th September 2014



It's the end of our first week, well done everyone! The children have made a super start to their Reception year. It is a real pleasure to be teaching your children, they are all absolutely delightful. They are settling in and taking the new routines in their stride! It is still very early days though and quite normal that they seem very tired and emotional. Any tears have not lasted more than a few minutes and despite what they may have told you they have actually enjoyed themselves!

This week we have focused on exploring the indoor and outdoor environment, making friends, adapting to being part of a large group and talking about ourselves. A huge thank you for the fantastic 'Treasure Boxes' that you all brought in on the first day, they are amazing! I have really enjoyed sharing them with the children. As they play a very important part of getting to know your child thank you for ensuring that your child brought one in.

On Thursday afternoons my Planning Preparation and Assessment time (PPA) will be covered by Mrs Hill. Mrs Hill has worked at Excalibur for many years and is well known to many Excalibur families. She was the Reception Teacher here for many years until her retirement a few years ago, she may even have taught some of you! Unfortunately, due to a family bereavement Mrs Hill will not be able to take the class on a Thursday for the time being. Until her return my Thursday afternoon PPA will be taken by Mrs Johnson who is also very experienced Reception Teacher.

Although the learning that takes place in the Reception class is driven by the children and their interests I have taken the theme 'Marvellous Me' to get us started. I have attached an outline of some of the learning that has been planned, set out in a 'topic web'.

Some dates for your diary

'Meet the Teacher' after school meeting

At the start of each new school year you are always invited to a short informal after school meeting; 'Meet the Teacher' which is given by your child's new teacher. The meeting for Reception will take place in a couple of weeks in order to allow the children to settle in.

Read, Write, Inc. meeting

If you remember from our New Parents information evening in June we mentioned that there would be an evening which would explain in greater detail our 'Read, Write, Inc.' programme to you. I would strongly urge you to attend so you are fully informed about our approach to teaching phonics here at Excalibur – it is a key part of our reading and Literacy programme. A letter inviting you to the meeting will be sent out in due course.

Reception/Parent Lunch

On Tuesday 7th October you are invited to school to have lunch with your child. Two adults can attend for each child but we politely ask that younger siblings, except babies, do not attend. If you are able to join your child please come to the main Reception at the front of the school at 11.40 am and the children will join you when they are ready. Once you have both finished eating your child will go out to play and you will be free to leave.

Children who have a packed lunch do not have to have a school dinner in order for you to join them, although they are welcome to have one.

School dinners cost £2.20, please complete the form below indicating if 1 or 2 adults will be attending and send the appropriate monies to school in a clearly labeled envelope.

In order for the food to be ordered we ask that you return the form to school as soon as possible. Please make cheques payable to Cheshire East Borough Council.

Many thanks,

Mrs Rogers and Mrs Newbould

I would like _____ adults to join _____ (name of child) for school lunch on Tuesday 7th October.

My child will have a packed lunch/school dinner (please circle).

I enclose _____ (£2.20 per dinner)

Signed _____

Communication & Language

- Recognising and writing our own names
- Getting to recognise other children's names
- Starting to introduce letter sounds – Speed Sounds (Read, Write, Inc.)
- Listening to stories and rhymes
- Writing lists and labels
- Making a class baby book
- Alphabet book – names of children, things in classroom, body parts, clothing etc.
- Sharing personal experiences – Treasure boxes
- People who are special to me

Mathematics

- Counting in order 1-10, and beyond
- Using number names in order in familiar contexts up to 10 including '0'
- Counting reliably up to 10 objects
- Finding 1 more or less than a given number up to 5
- Using simple mathematical language to describe shapes
- Using shapes to make pictures and patterns
- Using simple mathematical language to describe size
- Comparing two lengths
- Family surveys
- Passing of time: birthday months, days of the week, seasons.
- How tall are we? Direct comparison, comparing ourselves to others

Physical Development

- Awareness of space and of self
- Group games; ring, group and playground games
- How we feel after exercise?
- Gaining control over fastenings when getting dressed and undressed for P.E sessions
- Using a correct pencil grip and gaining control with mark making implements
- Using and holding scissors correctly
- 'Dough Disco'
- Threading, tap-a-shape etc. for FM skills

Autumn 1 - Reception

'Marvellous Me'



Personal, Social & Emotional Development

- Making friends and sharing and taking turns
- Learning the rules of the classroom
- The areas of the classroom – resources etc
- Personal Hygiene
- Dressing and undressing for P.E
- Learning routines of the school day
- SEAL – New Beginnings
- Knowing about ourselves – what we can do?
- Sharing information about ourselves – treasure boxes

Understanding the World

- Ourselves – our bodies; senses, body parts, bones
 - our families; who's who, other families
 - class baby album; now and then
 - looking after ourselves; washing, hygiene routines, healthy eating
 - 5 senses
- Computers – how to use the mouse, choose a program, using the drawing program
- Learning about Harvest and Diwali
- Reflections
- Seasonal changes
- Everyone in the world is different. How are we the same and different?

Expressive Arts

- Drawing – self portrait, our families
- Role play – home corner and school
- Painting – easel; colours, mixing colours
- Making funny faces biscuits
- Collage – plate faces, collage bodies
- Colours – mixing colours, lighter, darker, shades

Autumn 2014

Story books - Literacy

- Titch
- Funny Bones
- Harry and the Bucketful of Dinosaurs
- Starting school stories.

Festivals / R.E

- Harvest festival
- Diwali
- Bonfire Night
- Caring and belonging