



Reception Class January 2021

Welcome back and Happy New Year. We hope you all enjoyed a relaxing Christmas break. Many thanks from all of the staff in Reception for your Christmas cards and gifts. They are very much appreciated.

Topics

This term our main focus will be on enjoying traditional tales. We will be listening to lots of traditional and familiar stories and the majority of our Literacy work will be based around retelling these stories and finding out about the characters, events and settings.

Reading

This term we will work towards children being able to read simple sentences independently. Most children have been very good at practising their 'high frequency words'. We will continue to check them weekly and give them 5 new words as soon as they are confident with the words they already have. As the children move through the list of high frequency words, they will come across more and more words that can't be sounded out. We call these "tricky words". Please remind your child that some words can't be sounded out and we just have to learn these by sight.

Thank you to all of those parents who manage to find the time to read with your child. It would be very helpful if you could write in their reading record book so that we know how often they are reading. The date and the book title will be fine if you do not feel confident to write a short comment.

If you have any questions about learning to read, please ask at any time. It really makes a huge difference to the speed that children learn to read if they have plenty of opportunities to practise.

Maths

We have noticed that the children's ability to recognise numbers is very varied. The expectation by the end of Reception is that the children will be able to read and order numbers 0-20. They also need to be able to say which number is 1 more or 1 less. This may be something that you would like to practise at home with your child. We will send those children a set of 0-20 number cards home to practise. From January, our

most able mathematicians will be taught in a separate group as they are now working on numbers 0-100.

Clothing

We use the outside area in all weathers. Please ensure that your child has appropriate outdoor clothing and footwear at all times. It is essential to keep a set of spare clothes on your child's peg in case they get wet or dirty. Water, sand and mud play are important parts of the Early Years curriculum and it is impossible to avoid children getting wet or muddy at times.

Contacting us

In this unusual time when we are not allowed to welcome parents into school, it is important that we stay in contact and share anything that we or you might need to know about your child. Please use the Reception class email address to contact us Reception@st-edmunds-rc.oxon.sch.uk and remember to check Tapestry frequently to see what your child has been doing at school. Remember that you can also post your own Tapestry observations. We would love to see what the children have been doing at home and it is nice to see things that we would not be able to see at school, such as your child learning to ride a bike or going on a trip somewhere. We can sometimes catch up with parents at the beginning or end of the day at the gate. However, it is not always possible to speak to parents as there can be several children arriving or leaving at the same time. If you have something urgent that you would like to discuss, you can telephone the school office on 01235 521558, and they will pass on a message.

We hope this information is useful, do not hesitate to ask if you have questions at any time.

Best wishes,

Mrs Demarchi, Miss Hurley, Mrs Painton, Mrs Astone and all the staff in EYFS