



Reception Class January 2022

Welcome back and Happy New Year. We hope you all enjoyed a relaxing Christmas break. Many thanks from all 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 most 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 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

If you would like to support your child's learning in Maths at home, it would be helpful to work on recognising numbers 1-20 and putting the numbers in the correct order. This term we will learn the days of the week and months of the year. We will start to work with coins, adding coin total and finding different ways to count out small sums of money. We will also be working on learning the names of common shapes.

Clothing

We use the outside area in all weathers. Please ensure that your child always has appropriate outdoor clothing and footwear. 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. There are still a few children who do not have any spare clothes in school. We are very short of spare clothing as lots of the clothing that children wore to go home last term was not returned. If you have any clothes at home that belong to school, please return them as soon as possible.

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 classroom door. 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 to us or we can call you back when we are free.

Art and Cooking Fund

We ask all parents for a voluntary donation of £5 per term per pupil which enables us to purchase cooking and art materials for the projects we carry out in school. There is an envelope attached to this letter for you to return to us with your donation. All donations are gratefully received. However, this is a voluntary donation and we completely understand if you are unable to donate at the present time.

The children absolutely love the junk modelling table and are very keen to make models, which I'm sure many of you have been lucky enough to have had brought home by your child!! If you can save up any clean food packaging (egg boxes, cardboard boxes and toilet roll/kitchen roll tubes are particular favourites) we would be very grateful to receive them. The staff all save their food packaging, but we can't keep up with the demand for boxes for the children's models.

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

Best wishes from,

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