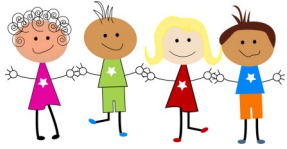
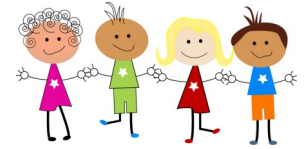


Reception Class Newsletter



Autumn 2020



We would firstly like to say a big thank you to everyone for welcoming us into your homes earlier in the year, via Zoom (a very different way to our usual home visits). You were all extremely welcoming and it was great to see the children in their own environments. Plus it was really beneficial for them to be able to meet us before they started school. It was great getting to spend some quality time finding out about your child. We hope that you have all adjusted to being in back in school after such a long time away. The children are settling into their new routines extremely well and we are delighted to see them coming into the classroom with a big smile. The children would normally have been able to meet their Year 6 Buddy, however we are trying to come up with a plan of some way that they can still meet them. (I know Year 6 are very eager for this to happen too.)

In Reception the curriculum is based on seven areas of learning and development. The three prime areas are Communication and Language, Physical Development and Personal, Social and Emotional Development. There are also four specific areas, through which the three prime areas are strengthened and applied. These are Literacy, Maths, Understanding the World and Expressive Arts and Design. We deliver this curriculum through activities and experiences based on themes and the children's own interests.



Communication and Language/ English



Learning to read and write is clearly very important. We put a lot of emphasis on phonics: the children will be learning about the sounds letters make and how to put them together to make words. They will also be learning to read words which can't be sounded out. We learn to write using the Kinetic Letters programme. We would normally have a meeting for parents and carers this half term to talk through Phonics and Kinetics Letters. We will let you know how we will enable you to get this information, as it gives lots of very important support and ideas about how you can help your child at home.

We will be sending a range of words to practise at home. You can help your child by sharing books with them and regularly practising their words and reading books. Please write comments in their red Reading Records. Encourage them to spot letters and their words in the world around them too!

In English we follow the Talk for Writing approach, which begins with the children learning a story using actions to help them remember it. It is absolutely brilliant to see how well the children learn to retell each half term's story. I'm not going to spoil the surprise and tell you the names of the 2 stories, but over the term we will be learning about farms, animals, fruit and vegetables which will all be linked to them.

Physical Development

We have daily access to our outdoor play area and the children get to run around on the 'big' playground at dinnertime. We also have P.E. every Thursday. As your child will be coming into school in their P.E. kit please keep practising getting dressed and undressed with your child at home – those buttons are so very fiddly and lots of practise will help! Also, please practise putting their jumper/cardigan off, on and off again. If your child has long hair, it should already be tied up for school and it is especially important to have it tied up on Thursday. Please remove earrings before your child comes to school on a Thursday – staff are not allowed to remove them for the children and they are not allowed to do P.E. if they are wearing them. In P.E. this term we will be travelling in different ways including: walking, jumping, hopping and skipping, followed by learning how to throw and catch a variety of different objects including bean bags and different size balls.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

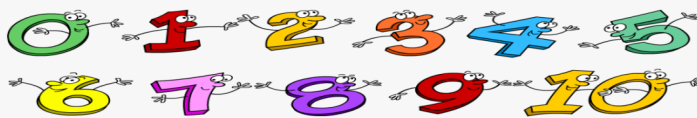
The personal, social and emotional development of the children is very important and we shall be encouraging them to become independent and confident and to build good relationships both with adults and with each other. Further to this, we have a whole school approach to develop a 'Growth Mindset' here at The Ridge. The children will get to meet our 8 exciting characters that will help us to develop our own individual Growth Mindset. For example 'Dolphin Dave' who says 'Don't Give Up!' We have been delighted to see that we are already developing motivated learners who embrace challenge and learn from setbacks or difficult tasks. A focus for this half term is sharing and waiting your turn. We will also be encouraging children to wait and be patient when wanting to talk to an adult, especially if they are having a conversation with another child. We also create a 'have a go' environment where the children will all feel confident to try new things.

Maths

The children's maths work will focus mainly on mental and practical activities and will include lots of number recognition to 10 and counting. We will also be developing their understanding of shape and measures. You can help by counting at every opportunity, playing matching games and spotting numbers and shapes everywhere! This term we will also focus on sorting objects into different groups, comparing groups using the words more/ fewer and finding one more and one less.

Understanding the World

Children will be talking about people who are special to them, talking about past and present events in their lives, as well as learning about the natural world around them. We will also be watching how the environment changes at different points throughout the year.



Expressive Arts and Design

The children will be encouraged to develop their creative skills in a variety of ways. There will be opportunities for them to work with music, to use their imaginations in art and design, dance and in role play; and to explore a range of materials, colours and textures.

General Points

We will sometimes send home learning to reinforce activities being done in school and so that you can see what the children are doing. We also ask that you practise their words and read with them as often as possible. We will be starting to send words home later in the term. Please send in anything of interest to your child at any time so that they can share it with the rest of the class. We use an electronic Learning Journey and add to this regularly. You will have opportunities to see this at the end of the year.

Water Bottles and Drinks

Can children remember to bring their water bottles each day and please ensure that this contains plain water. The children can use this water bottle at dinner time, however we are more than happy for your child to have a small plastic bottle or pouch/carton of squash in their lunchbox that can then be thrown away to avoid it leaking in the afternoon. Some lunch boxes have a plastic bottle attached to the side and this is fine too. The children who have a brought a separate dinner time drink have found dinner time slightly easier as they haven't had to remember to collect their bottle as well as their lunch box.



Uniform

Thank you for spending the time to label your child's uniform. Can we ask that you check it regularly to ensure that the labels haven't faded or come off. Children need to bring a coat into school each day, as we are outside in all weathers. We will also have the windows open in the classroom, so they will always need a jumper or cardigan too. Could you label their coat, shoes, water bottles and lunch boxes too please.

Wellies

Children may need a pair of wellies at different times throughout the year, however we will let you know when they will need to bring them in.

A lot of information has been sent out to you by myself via email, but please feel free to ask any questions if you are unsure of anything. Please ensure that you have returned all of the important forms that we gave you on your first day. Please remember not to send any nut products in lunch boxes due to severe nut allergies. If sending grapes in lunch boxes, can you please cut them in half or quarters, thanks for your help and support with this.

Dates for your Diary

Photographer in school - Monday 21st September 2020— cancelled until further notice

Please note the dates below are only provisional due to the current climate. We will let you know as soon as we can if they are able to happen. There are also a number of other useful dates on the school website for you to view.

Harvest Festival - Friday 25th September 10.00am

Phonics, Reading and Kinetic Letters workshop - Unfortunately we will be unable to do this, however further details that would have been discussed at the meeting will be sent out later in the term.

Christmas Performance - Thursday 3rd and Friday 4th December 10.00am

We would normally arrange a 'Family Learning Morning' during the year, where we invite you or Grandparents to join us—unfortunately this will be cancelled until further notice.. Please contact us if ever you have any questions, worries or concerns. We are here to help and really want you and your child to enjoy their time in Reception. My email address is lmelia@ridge.dudley.sch.uk and we welcome any photos emailed to us from home to share with the other children. Many thanks for all of your help and support, it is really appreciated.

Mrs Lara Melia and Mrs Karen Mangan