



**Curriculum Information - Reception**

**Autumn Term 2 – 4<sup>th</sup> November – 20<sup>th</sup> December**

Dear Parents/Carers,

Our topic this half-term is “Celebrations”. We will also be talking about winter and changes in nature.

Our PE and Learning Outside the Classroom day this half-term will be on Friday.

We will visit our school library on Thursdays. Library books and reading practice books will be changed on Thursdays only.

<p><b>Communication and Language</b></p>	<p>This term, we will be stressing the importance of social phrases such as saying ‘good morning’ at the beginning of the day and saying ‘please’ and ‘thank you’. Preparing for our Nativity play will give us plenty of opportunities to practise speaking loudly and clearly to an audience. In our class discussions (oracy) we will learn about agreeing and disagreeing with the speaker.</p> <p>Our new vocabulary will relate to celebrations, winter and Christmas. We will read daily as a whole class and the children will be encouraged to listen to the story carefully and participate in a group discussion.</p>
<p><b>Physical Development</b></p>	<p>The children will be working on their fine and gross motor skills through play and guided activities. We have started an intervention group to support children in acquiring a correct pencil grip, form their letters correctly and learn to use scissors. It would be great if this was reinforced at home.</p> <p>In PE, we will focus on the fundamentals of PE such as balancing, running and stopping, changing direction, jumping, hopping and different ways of travelling. We will carry on stressing the importance of social, emotional and thinking skills we learn during PE lessons.</p> <p>Part of Physical Development is health and self-care and this is where we will support the children in understanding the importance of making healthy lifestyle choices and developing their self-care skills. One important self-care skill is being able to eat with a knife and fork. Please, encourage this at home as being able to cut up one’s food is very handy in the lunch hall.</p>
<p><b>Personal, Social and Emotional Development</b></p>	<p>We will be encouraging children to explore playing and making connections with different classmates and trying to have a go at playing and learning in the areas of provision that they do not normally access. We will work on tidying up and looking after the classroom and resources.</p> <p>We will carry on learning about feelings and how to express and manage them. Children will have an opportunity to reflect on how they feel during self-registration in the morning.</p>
<p><b>Literacy</b></p>	<p>We will cover all phase 2 sounds this term (new graphemes: ff ll ss j v w x y z zz)</p>

	<p>qu ch sh th ng nk). We will learn about the suffix –s used for plurals and 3<sup>rd</sup> person singular verbs. Our new tricky words will be: put pull full as and has his her go no to into she push he of we me be.</p> <p>We will practise correct letter formation and begin to write CVC words, phrases and even sentences with familiar graphemes (with support and using sound and word mats) .</p> <p>We will be writing invitations and cards as part of our topic.</p> <p>There are numerous mark-making opportunities within our classroom provision and we will encourage the children to access them independently.</p> <p>We will read books matched to children’s phonics ability two or three times per week with each child in small groups, focusing on decoding words, reading selected phrases with expression and discussing comprehension questions.</p>
<b>Mathematics</b>	<p>In Mathematics, we will be learning about patterns of 5 objects, such as 5 fingers, the dice pattern or a 5-frame. We will be comparing sets of objects using ‘fewer than’, ‘more than’ and ‘an equal number’. We will explore the concept of ‘whole’ and ‘parts’ and focus on the composition of numbers up to 5. We will practise counting to 10 with 1:1 correspondence (using one number for one object) and begin to count to 20 and beyond. We will learn to recognise numerals to 20 and match numerals up to 10 with quantities. We will use lots of concrete objects and manipulatives to support the understanding of numbers. We will promote kinaesthetic learning and play games to make learning Mathematics as fun and practical as possible.</p> <p>We will also be learning/revising the names of basic 2D shapes and beginning to talk about their properties.</p>
<b>RE</b>	<p>Our first RE topic is “Prophecy and promise”. We will be reading Luke’s account of Jesus’s nativity and discussing all the events in his account such as the Annunciation, the Visitation, or the birth of Jesus. We will learn about Angel Gabriel, prophet Isaiah, John the Baptist and St. Luke and other important people in the story of Jesus’ nativity.</p> <p>We will be observing Advent (at the child-appropriate level) and learning about its meaning and symbols. We will learn about Christmas celebrations in other countries, too.</p>
<b>Understanding of the world</b>	<p>Our ‘Celebrations’ topic will allow the children to learn about and share different ways of celebrating special days and festivals, with a focus on Christmas. With the change of seasons, we will be observing the changes in nature and discussing how animals and people prepare for the colder weather and shorter days. We will be carrying out experiments to capture the changes in the weather, e.g. freezing water overnight in the outdoor area. We will also</p>

	<p>create some art outside.</p> <p>We have an investigation table, which will be set up regularly based on the children's interests.</p> <p>Our history topic will let us reflect on changes within our lifetime and look at some images and toys from the past.</p>
<b>Expressive Arts and Design</b>	<p>We will be learning how to access our art area with increasing independence - including setting it up as well as tidying it up with minimal supervision.</p> <p>We will be learning to make marks with paint, using our fingers and standard as well as non-standard implements. We will be creating artwork related to various celebrations, e.g. a poppy wreath to mark Remembrance Day or diya lights using salt dough as well as representations of Nativity and Christmas artwork.</p> <p>Preparing our Nativity play will provide children with opportunities to sing, dress up and represent various characters as well as to experience all aspects involved in performing for an audience.</p> <p>During child-initiated learning the children will be able to benefit from imaginary/pretend play and use the available resources creatively.</p> <p>Our fortnightly music sessions with Ms Clifford will provide them with opportunities to sing and use instruments.</p>
<b>Home Learning</b>	<p>The children are expected to read daily. We will visit the school library and on Thursdays and the children will have an opportunity to choose a new book each week, as long as they return the book on loan from the previous week.</p> <p>It is crucial that the children access their levelled books at home at least twice per week to ensure progress. There is guidance for parents in the back cover on how to best benefit from those books. In short, those books are to be easily accessible for a child to give them an experience of what it feels like to be a competent reader who can decode and comprehend the text with ease. The books are to be read at least 3 times with a different focus: to practice decoding words, to use expression and to show text comprehension.</p> <p>Please, keep all books in children's book bags daily, in a zip wallet provided. Please, do not put water bottles, clothing or any other items that might damage books in the book bags. There is a charge for a damaged or lost book.</p> <p>Home learning will be set on Google Classroom every Friday once the children are settled into school.</p> <p>Please, encourage the children to dress and undress independently, put their shoes on and take them off at home, use a knife and fork when eating, and wash their hands.</p>

Please, continue to check the school newsletter, school website and Facebook page for important dates and information.

Please ensure you have brought in a pair of Wellington boots.

Please ensure your child has a water bottle, reading book bag and coat in school every day.

Finally, please make sure that EVERYTHING has your child's name on.

Should you have any questions or anything you wish to discuss please email [reception@holyfamily.herts.sch.uk](mailto:reception@holyfamily.herts.sch.uk) or phone the school to make an appointment. The reception mailbox is for non-urgent matters only as it is not accessed during school hours.

Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to working together this year to support your child.

Miss Kieś and Mrs Lawrence