

## Elm Class, September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I am so excited to welcome you to our brilliant school! This is a very special time for you and your child and we hope to make the transition to school life as smooth as possible. Thank you for both your time and the warm welcome we received on the home visits. One of the ways we communicate with parents is through a half-termly letter and topic web which outlines activities and topics we will be covering. We hope that this will enable you to support your child's learning at home.

Please do not hesitate to come and talk to me if you have any questions or concerns. The best time is at the end of the day, so if you would like to make an appointment to see me after school, please contact the school office or drop a note in the morning in order to arrange a convenient time.

I look forward to a wonderful year ahead!

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Jayne Hore

### The Revised Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum – 2021

As you may already be aware, the DFE have revised the EYFS framework for this September 2021. This framework must be followed by providers of care for children up to five years old. There are seven areas of learning and development. We use these areas of learning and development when we are observing, assessing and planning for your child's individual needs. The areas of learning and development ensure that we are constantly challenging your child and helping them to develop and succeed. The seven areas of learning are split into two parts: three prime areas, and four specific areas.

Prime areas			
Personal, social and emotional development	Communication and Language	Physical Development	
Specific Areas			
Literacy	Maths	Understanding the World	Expressive Arts and Design

At the end of Reception, I will use my observations and knowledge of your child to assess them against the new Early Learning Goals (ELGs). These goals are short statements for each area of learning and are attached to this letter. You will be informed whether your child has reached these ELGs in their end of year report.

As part of the changes to the new framework, it also means that there is less emphasis on recording paperwork, meaning we, as adults, can spend more time with your child getting to know them and having quality interactions. The new framework is more aligned with the KS1 curriculum, further ensuring your child's educational journey from reception to KS1 is building upon previous knowledge.

## Our Learning

Our topics in Reception are usually guided by the children's interests, although we do plan to cover certain specific themes across the year, such as seasons, festivals and celebrations. We are starting our year with a topic entitled 'Getting to know you'. It would be brilliant if you could provide copies of photographs of your child with some of their important people e.g. their family or friends for them to share with the class and add to our topic display.

Attached you will find the topic web as an overview of this half terms' learning.

### Learning through Play

The learning in Reception is through exploration and play with some discrete adult led teaching, for example: of sounds (phonics) to support reading and new ideas in maths. We encourage children to reflect and question the world around them and provide quality first hand experiences to help with this. We experiment with different art media, enjoy listening to and making music and moving to music. We enjoy activities to develop our fine motor skills and have an excellent outdoor learning environment in which we can practise gross motor skills and where there are many child initiated play opportunities. These are predominantly, on a larger scale than activities inside.

### Phonics

Next week we will begin daily phonics sessions to support development in reading, writing and spelling. A reading and phonics information evening will be held later this term (details to follow).

### Home reading books

We will be providing two types of books for the children to take home. These will be:

- **a reading practise book** matched to your child's phonic stage that they can read independently. They should be able to read at least 95% of the words in these books. It may not be a different book every time; it may need to be the same book if your child still needs to develop fluency. They will have already read this book in school before bringing it home.
- **a sharing book** that they can talk about and enjoy with their parent/carer. These books will be your child's choice and are to help develop a love of reading!

### Literacy and maths

Whole class maths and literacy sessions are planned to take place daily. Much of our learning will be themed around different, high-quality books.

## P.E.

**Mrs Cameron** will be teaching the class P.E. lessons on Friday afternoons. Please ensure your child comes to school in their P.E. kit each Friday.

## Homework

In Reception the children are not given formal homework, however parental support in this early stage has a huge impact on how they learn in school. I will be sending home a letter each Friday which will share with you the learning and activities we've been doing in class and some suggestions for practical activities to do at home to enhance their school learning. This will also be put on the class page of the school website. I would love to see any work the children do at home. The children are expected to read for ten minutes daily and practise their phonic sounds. Once the children are more settled, I will also send home information about 'Mathletics' which is an online website we use for maths homework.

## WOW Cards and Tapestry

*Help us to celebrate your child's achievements...*

In Elm Class, we get as excited as you do watching your child grow and develop, and would like to celebrate all their achievements - whether they happen at school or at home with you. We would love to hear from you about the things your child enjoys or achieves. It helps us to create a 'well-rounded' picture of who your child really is. Therefore with this letter we are sending out some WOW cards.

On these "WOW cards" you can share with us any WOW moments in your child's life. For example, they shared their toys with a friend, they read road signs, they got dressed by themselves, they learnt how to ride a bike without stabilisers, they made up a story with their toys, how they built a tall lego tower, and many more besides! These cards will be celebrated in class and then will form part of their "Learning Journeys" Please ask for more cards if you need them.

The other way you can share your child's achievements is through their online learning journeys on Tapestry.

## **Baseline**

The reception baseline assessment, or RBA is a short, interactive and practical assessment of your child's early literacy, communication, language and mathematics skills when they begin in school. It will be undertaken with me and will measure your child's progress from reception to year 6. The data will only be accessed by the DFE. I will be able to spend quality 1-1 time with your child, getting to know them and if they need any further support in certain areas. When your child reaches year 6, you will be able to see the progress your child has made throughout their school journey. I will receive a set of statements which provide a narrative description of how your child performed in the assessment and I am happy to share these with parents. If you wish to read further on the reception baseline, then you can find a useful parent booklet here;

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/reception-baseline-assessment-information-for-parents>