

Curriculum Report to Parents/Carers

Reception Classes - Autumn 2023



We extend a warm Grafton Welcome to new children and to returning children from Rainbow Class! We hope you have had a good summer. It is lovely to see the children's enthusiasm at the start of this new academic year.

Deniz Hussain is the teacher in Green class, and Justin Ward and Charli Sparkes are the teachers in Yellow class. Christina Burke is a nursery nurse who will provide additional support for children in Reception. Our teaching assistants are Claire Amdemariam, Rashida Chowdhury, Fadumo Warsame, Nicole Gill and our learning support assistant is Daiva Bliudzuite.

At first, your child may feel strange being in an unfamiliar environment, especially bearing in mind the impact of lockdown and lost time from nursery. However, we are a friendly school and we are doing everything we can to ensure they settle in quickly. Please encourage your child to tell one of us if they are hurt, feeling unwell or want to go to the toilet. Children are not allowed to leave



the classroom unless an adult knows where they are going. Please talk to your child about this at home.

Lunchtime takes place in the main hall but only with Early Years children to allow us to have a quieter time. School lunches are provided free of charge by Islington Council but you may choose to give your child a packed lunch. This year we have a significant number of children with quite severe allergies, so please think carefully about goes into their lunch box. Particularly avoid nuts and sesame seeds.

If you need to take your child to the doctor, dentist or to the hospital please inform us in advance. When possible, please bring your child back to school for the rest of the day. Please remember that school starts promptly at 9.00am and finishes at 3.30pm. If, for any reason, you are unable to collect your child on time, a telephone call will be appreciated to let us know that you are running late. Your child may get anxious if they are the last one to be collected. We also need to know either by telephone, letter or verbally when a relative or friend is collecting your child. Please note we will not send your child home with someone that they are unfamiliar with if we have not been informed in advance.

Topics

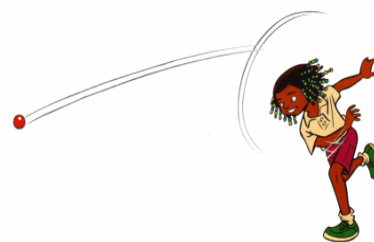
Our topic for this half term is 'All About Me', and for the following half term will be 'Festivals'. We aim to draw on the children's past experiences and knowledge of themselves as a stimulus for learning about how they fit into the environment of families and home. Through these topics, we will be covering the goals set out in the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Primarily, we will focus on settling the children into their new classes. We will be encouraging them to use their environment independently and become self-managing. We will also be exploring our feelings, e.g. what makes us feel sad, happy etc.

Physical Development

We will be developing children's dance and movement skills through physical activities in our outdoor space. We also do '5-A-Day', which is a daily 5 minute exercise/dance class. Movement and drama sessions will be cross-curricular and linked to dance track, stories and poems used in the literacy sessions. Please make sure your child is wearing appropriate clothing to school, for example t-shirt, tracksuit bottoms and trainers. We remind you that jewellery is not allowed in school.



Communication and Language

We will focus on developing children's speaking and listening skills through class discussions, role-play, drama and circle time. Please talk to your child about anything and everything. Spending some time each day talking to your child without the TV or other distractions will really benefit them during this important time in their development.

Literacy

Our literacy work this term will be based on the Read Write Inc Programme, which focuses on phonics and the early stages of reading and writing. This will develop existing knowledge and introduce new skills and vocabulary.

Reading

Reading is fundamental to learning and we aim to see every reception child reading before they leave us for year 1. We have a phonics lesson each day and will focus on 4 sounds each week. You can help your child to learn these in familiar contexts, e.g. finding objects around your house that begin with a 's' sound, writing the letters and drawing objects beginning with each sound, spotting letter sounds in the supermarket etc...

Writing

We will be giving children lots of opportunities to write and draw, both indoors and outdoors. The children will take part in mark-making and letter formation activities. Handwriting is part of the curriculum. We have adapted the continuous cursive style of handwriting, which is taught throughout the school. We will concentrate on activities which will help develop the children's fine-motor skills. It is really important that your child can write his/her own name. Please encourage your child to practise this skill at home.

Homework

Reading Folders: Your child will take home a selection of early readers and free choice books once a week on **Friday**. The folder needs to be returned on **Wednesday** to allow for us to change the books. If you would like to keep some of the books for longer this is fine, but please send back the folder and reading record. Please share the books with your child. Talking about the pictures, predicting what might happen next, spotting familiar letters and words will all support your child's reading development. For parents who have English as an additional language, it is important to share books in home languages as this is an excellent way of supporting your child's reading and language development. Please remember that your child may not be able to read the words, but they can tell the story by 'reading' the pictures. A reading record book is provided. This book provides an important link between home and school, so please add a brief comment each time you read with your child. The interest you show in reading with your child will help develop their own enthusiasm and enjoyment. Once the children have settled we will send out more information on how to support your child's reading development.

Homework

We will provide your child with a homework exercise book and send out weekly homework tasks for you and your child.

Mathematics

We will follow the Maths Mastery programme in our maths work. The programme will extend the children's mathematical understanding through a combination of whole class carpet sessions, adult led activities and independent maths activities. Maths activities this term will focus on developing skills in pattern, counting with and recognising numbers to 10; working with 2D shapes; making comparisons and solving problems relating to size. We will also hold a short 'Maths Meeting' each day. This will be a short song and rhyme-based lesson which will encourage children to learn key mathematical concepts and vocabulary (eg. days of the week, counting forwards and backwards).

Understanding the World

People and Communities We will be learning about healthy eating and energy-giving foods as well as the human body and skeleton.

We will be introducing the children to the passing of time through the days of the week, personal time lines and story sequencing. Telling your child about stories and events from your own childhood will help them to develop ideas about their family history. We will discuss family members, looking at how people change over time.

The World We will be focusing on a range of African and Caribbean books and stories during Black History Month (October). We will celebrate several festivals including Eid, Diwali, Hanukkah and Christmas.

Technology We will introduce the children to a variety of interactive software. Children will be encouraged to use the Interactive White Board on a regular basis.

Creative Development

Art

Our Art specialist Justin will be devising exciting art projects and we will be exploring a variety of media and techniques.

We will focus on portraiture, looking at a range of portraits from different periods. We will be particularly looking at individual portraits. The children will have access to the home corner and a number of role-play areas, where they can develop their imaginative skills.



Music



We will focus on songs and rhymes about the body, making different patterns and following rhythms e.g. body percussion. The children will have in-class music sessions with Juwon Ogungbe, our music teacher. Children will be learning new songs and developing their sense of rhythm by using percussion instruments. Children will also be taking part in weekly drumming sessions with Norris.

Remember that you are your child's 'first teacher'. They are at an exciting and enquiring stage of their development and are beginning to take an interest in the environment. We feel that it is important for us to work closely with you at all times.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us. We are here to support you and your child. We look forward to speaking to you for a more detailed overview on your child hopefully towards the end of this half term.

Best Wishes

The Early Years Team