

Curriculum Report to Parents/Carers

Reception Classes - Spring Term 2024

Happy New Year to you all and welcome back to another term at Grafton. This letter is to tell you about what we will be doing in class this Spring term. Our topics this term will be **Favourite Stories** followed by **Transport**.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

This prime area of learning is taught through all areas of the curriculum and on a daily basis. We will also cover caring for plants, looking after ourselves and each other and road safety.

Communication and Language

This term we will continue to focus on developing children's speaking and listening skills through small group and whole class discussions, role-play, drama and circle time. In particular, we will be encouraging them to listen and respond to stories.

Literacy

We will continue to focus on a big book each week. These texts will include traditional stories, rhymes and non-fiction. These will be a starting point for most of our topic work. We will be concentrating on reading, listening to stories, making books and skills that develop personal response to stories. We want children to begin to understand the way stories are structured and to retell familiar stories.

Here are some of the books we will cover this term:

The Three Little Pigs
Goldilocks and the Three Bears
The Three Billy Goats Gruff
Enormous Turnip
Chinese New Year
Mr Gumpy's Outing
Whatever Next



You can borrow the above books from your local library.

During the course of the term, we will also be encouraging children to share their own favourite books and stories with the rest of the class and talk about why these are special to them.

Reading: We will continue with our phonics work, following the Read Write Inc. literacy programme. We will encourage children to learn new letter sounds, begin to learn some high frequency 'red' words and to attempt independent reading. By now you will all be familiar with the Oxford Owl and Read Write Inc. websites. Please feel free to access this to supplement your child's homework. If you want to know more about our whole school phonics approach to literacy please speak to a member of the reception team. We will continue to visit Manor Gardens Children's library every other week.

Writing: We will continue to encourage your child to do lots of writing, giving them opportunities to write during indoor and outdoor activities. We would like to see children moving towards writing more words and sentences independently this term, focusing on encouraging them to use their knowledge of phonics to break down words into sounds to spell them. We will also have regular handwriting sessions, focusing on forming letters correctly.

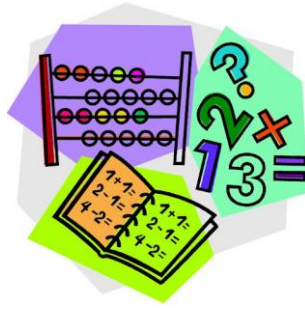
How to Help: Please remember to read with your child every day, as it reinforces what they have learnt in class. Your support is vital to your child's development. Please encourage your child to learn the letter sounds by finding objects around the home which start with a particular sound. You can also help by breaking words down into sounds (e.g. bus, b-u-s). These activities are really useful and can be great fun. There are also other things to read: cereal packets, street signs, comics and anything else your child is interested in. Make it fun and exciting, and please remember to use the **letter sounds** rather than the **letter names** when doing these activities at home with your child. Don't forget to look out for homework in the homework folder every Friday. Please bring homework back on Wednesday.

P.A.T.C.H folders: Please remember to bring your child's P.A.T.C.H folder in on **Wednesday** so we can change their reading books. Please add a comment for the teacher to the Reading Record Book each time you read with your child. Your comments are a valuable way for us to communicate regularly about your child's reading progress.

Mathematics

We will continue to follow the Maths Mastery programme in our maths work. This term, we will be counting, ordering and writing numbers to 20 (and beyond). We will also focus on adding and taking away small quantities, as well as grouping and sharing objects. Later in the term, we will be looking at doubling and halving within 10.

We will encourage children to use words to compare things, such as more, fewer, longer, shorter, heavier and lighter.



How to Help:

Please count regularly with your child. Use the things that you see around you to help, like cars in the street or biscuits on a plate! Use the number cards in the homework pack. Encourage your child to put them in order, then take one away and see if they can work out which one is missing. Number rhymes, shopping and cooking are all excellent ways of developing your child's interest in numbers, and fit in well with your usual routines. Look for numbers around you. What numbers do you see on the way to school? What number bus do you travel on? What numbers are on the houses on your street? What is one more than...?

Physical Development

It is really important at this age to develop fine (hands and fingers) and gross (whole body) motor skills. We will be using the outside equipment to develop skills in sequencing, balancing and ways of travelling.

How to Help:

Please encourage your child to use a pencil as much as possible. It is important to encourage a tripod grip, which is two finger and a thumb are used to make the grip shape. At this age it is a case of practise, practise, practise.

Understanding the World

We will also be using favourite books to teach science. We will be planting and observing the growth of bean seeds, cooking to see how materials change, and floating and sinking Mr Gumpy's boat. We will focus on our environment through our topic on transport.

We continue to develop IT skills by using a variety of language, mathematical and creative based computer programs. The children will also be learning to use programmable toys such as the bee bot.

Expressive Arts and Design:

Creative activities happen on a daily basis in reception. Again, we will be using favourite books to inspire our work. We will explore a wide range of techniques and materials, including collage, clay and paint. We will be doing close observational drawing and mask making. Music is a fantastic way to help your child to learn to concentrate, developing listening and thinking skills as well as encouraging them to look for patterns. The children will be taught about the basic elements of music. We will continue to attend singing assembly each week, and the children also have a weekly music session with Juwon or Norris.

As always, if you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to speak to Deniz, Justin or Charli. We are here to support your child and you.

Happy 2024!

Deniz Hussain

Justin Ward

Charli Sparkes

(Reception class teachers)

Support Staff

Christina Burke, Claire Amdemariam, Fadumo Warsame, Rashida Choudhury,
Nicole Gill and Daiva Bliudziute