

AUTUMN TERM 2018

The British Preparatory School

RECEPTION



Introduction

It is lovely that the children settled into our school routines. To see their happy, confident faces at the beginning of the day is wonderful. Please ensure that your child arrives on time for the start of the day. We begin our learning promptly and it not only disrupts the class but it can unsettle your child. Consistent tardiness will be recorded on the final report.

To ensure your child is always prepared, please try to remember the following:

Sunday

Library - return your book in your book folder so that your child can choose a new one. Book folders are available from the office.

Monday

Show and Tell - children can bring a small item from home to show to the class. We encourage the children to talk about their item and for the class to listen carefully and ask questions. The item can be a toy, picture, photo or something relating to their weekend.

Tuesday

Dance - children come to school dressed in their PE kits with their uniform in their bag to change into.

Wednesday

P.E - children come to school dressed in their PE kits with their uniform in their bag to change into.

Everyday



Literacy

It should be noted that at this age, home environment, previous schooling, language development and ability to communicate in English and even the month in which they were born, have to be taken into consideration when planning the children's programme. It is not expected that all children will have a reading book even by the end of term and some may only start in the last term. This does not mean that they are failing, just that they are not ready. The worst we can do is to make them feel they are failures at this young age. In cases where they are not ready, the children will be covering lots of pre reading exercises such as visual and auditory discrimination, memory training and sequencing. They will also be introduced to whole words around the class as well as the initial sounds.

In order to interest the children in reading stories we are working on lots of Eric Carle stories including *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, *The Very Busy Spider* and *The Mixed Up Chameleon*. They will be encouraged to re-tell and discuss the story and which characters they like or dislike. This encourages your child to speak to the class and for the rest of the children to listen carefully to each other. We will be sequencing the main events of the story, encouraging the children to say who the characters are, what the plot of the story is and to start forming opinions e.g. Did you like the story?

We are introducing the initial sounds through songs and actions which the children love singing. We use the sound that the letter makes not the name. You can support the learning by playing simple games like I-Spy, finding objects around your home that begin with the same letter or finding the letter in story books. We encourage the children to bring an object to school that starts with the sound of the week for our sound table. We have been focusing on the correct letter formation for these sounds and encourage the children to use the correct pencil grip which should be relaxed and comfortable. We also use a variety of different media to practise our letter formation including sand and foam.

We understand that pencil control can be challenging for some children and encourage the use of play dough to strengthen the hand muscles. Something you could use at home!

The children have been practising reading and writing their own name. Please note we always use lower case letters apart from the initial letter. This they could practise at



Library books

The children choose their own library book and we encourage them to take a range of books including non-fiction. At this stage they are not expected to read the book themselves. They should be shared with you so please take time to read to your child and discuss the picture and content. Should they choose a non fiction book, please encourage them to bring any pictures to school they have done. Developing a love of books is key to help your child start to read - a lifelong skill!

Numeracy



We have been learning to count accurately through a range of number games and songs. We encourage the children to join in when we are counting and say the number names clearly. Recognising, ordering and writing the numbers has also been a focus this term. It is important for the children to be confident with numbers and be able to count one to one accurately. Counting by touching or moving each object helps them to count accurately.

You can support this learning by asking the children to count various objects at home e.g. how many apples in the dish, or how many cars in the toy box? You can ask them to tell you how many are there if you take one away or added one more?



Topic work

We have been focusing on "All about Me" this term to help the children settle into their new classes and meet new friends.

We talked about the senses this included guessing the smell in the pot and listening to different sounds on a sound walk around the school.



We made feely pictures using different materials. We encouraged the children to talk about the different materials and how they felt e.g. hard, soft, rough.

Creative

We produced a colour wheel by mixing the primary colours together to make secondary ones - the children loved getting messy as they used their hands to mix the paint!





For the rest of the term, we will be making the characters from the Eric Carle stories e.g a caterpillar, spider and ladybird out of a variety of media including paper mache, paint and card. We also practise our cutting skills by cutting along straight and wavy lines as well as cutting out the pictures from the stories to sequence.

E.S.L

For those children who have English as a second language and who need extra help, there are regular structured sessions. This term we are working on building up their vocabulary, and formulating well formed sentences and questions. Through rhymes and games we encourage the children to speak clearly.

We also encourage the children to speak in full sentences instead of single word phrases e.g. "Can I have a drink of water" and not just "water". Using please and thank you is always expected.

We have had a very positive start to the term and we are happy to see the children so settled. We look forward to the rest of the term and continue seeing the children develop into confident and happy learners.



Thank you for your support.

Mrs Reid & Mrs Smith
Reception Teachers