

OCTOBER 2015

The British Preparatory School

Introducing our team in Reception

This year we have two reception classes which means the children get additional individual attention from our teaching team. The team are:



Mrs Kenna



Mrs Steene



Mrs Tierney



Mrs Cheetham

The children have settled down well into the routines of reception. Please try to ensure your child is on time for school as we start important teaching inputs straight after register at 8.25 am. If you arrive late, this disadvantages not only your child but can disrupt the whole class.

In order to help your child please try to also remember the following:

Sunday - come dressed for swimming with uniform on top and underwear in your child's bag to change into after swimming.

Tuesday - come dressed for dance in PE kit and bring uniform to change into afterwards.

Thursday - don't forget your library book!

Everyday - Healthy snack and water bottles (named)



Literacy

This term we are introducing the children to the single letter sounds and learning sight words as a precursor to reading. The children learn their sounds through various games, songs and group work. All of the children are making a sound book to bring home and show you. Some children will be using their knowledge of letter sounds to blend and segment sounds in order to read words correctly. Through games and activities the children are learning to read common sight words daily and those related to our topic. We are also working hard to form our letters correctly which means we are emphasising the importance of holding our pencils properly with good pencil control.



How can you help at home? Try to point out everyday items to your children and ask them what sound the words start with e.g. cat starts with a 'c'. When shopping or driving, point out road signs, labels on packets and tins etc to draw the children's attention to whole words.

Reading

We love reading in Reception! Please take time to read your child's library book, to them or with them, as they have selected it themselves. Developing a love of books is essential as the children start to learn to read in Reception.

Handwriting

Please encourage your child to write in lower case rather than capitals, unless it is the start of their name. So far this term we have been learning to write the 'curly' letters: c, o, a, d, g, s, e and f. All of the children are working hard to write their name.

How can you help at home?

Encourage your child to write their name correctly at home and ask them to show you some of the curly letters listed above.



Numeracy

Number Norman and Jumping Jack, our resident puppets, are enthusing our children all about numbers. With them we are learning to count, recognise, order and write numbers. In class, we play lots of number games such as number darts and Bingo to reinforce our number work and we are also developing the children's understanding of one more/one less. We will move forward with this work and start to introduce the vocabulary for addition and subtraction using fingers or blocks to help solve number sentences. After half term the children will also be introduced to measuring length and weight using non standard units of measure. We shall use the words longer/shorter than and lighter/heavier than.



How can you help at home? Help your child by asking them to carefully count out objects, perhaps when you go shopping, eg can you count 8 apples into the bag or climb stairs, counting each step? Careful counting means taking time to only say one numeral for each item and moving/touching the object as you count, eg to the side or into a bag.

Topic Work

Our current topic is All About Me. We have been reading stories all about different families and feelings. The children participated in Show and Tell and had the opportunity to talk about a favourite toy or a picture of their family. This encouraged the children to speak in front of others and ask questions to their classmates.

We have also been learning to listen very carefully and have been on listening walks to identify different sounds around us. We have also been learning the parts of the body and getting creative by making self portraits. In our role-play area the children are able to enact being 'at home' with our pretend cooking facilities and caring for a baby.

Ahoy Captain!

After half term we will move onto our new topic about Pirates. We will be linking our learning in the classroom to the topic, for example in numeracy we will be counting pirate treasure coins.

We will also have a Pirate Day where the children get chance to dress up so you may want to start thinking about your pirate costumes now. There is no need to buy an expensive outfit, home made costumes are just as good, and fun to make with your child. We will be making pirate hats in class. We will also have a pirate ship and treasure in our role-play area. Let's hope no one needs to walk the plank!!

Mrs Ruth Kenna & Mrs Lucy Tierney
Reception Teachers



