

Class 2 & 3 Newsletter

Autumn 1 ~ 2023

Hello and welcome to Reception!

For some of our families it is a brand new hello and for others it is a welcome back! It is wonderful to see all the children, and we have enjoyed hearing about their super summer adventures. We are very proud of how well the children have settled in—we know this is a big step for them, and for you!



We look forward to enjoying activities in school with our families throughout the year, and will keep you informed about these events. We would also love to know what is going on in your little one's life at home, and invite you to share this by filling in one of your 'WOW stars'. We will share these with the class and display them to celebrate exciting experiences and achievements at home.

If you ever have any questions or would like to know more about life in Early Years, please do ring or ask at the end of the school day—we are happy to help you in any way we can.

☺ YOUR EARLY YEARS TEAM ☺

Mrs Fagan—Class 1 / Nursery teacher and Early Years Lead
Mrs Elliott—Class 2 / Reception teacher
Mrs O'Byrne—Class 3 / Reception teacher
Mrs Wilson—teaching assistant
Mr Patey—teaching assistant

Throughout the year, your child will get to enjoy working with their class teacher, as well as the rest of our Early Years team! We are all enjoying getting to know our Early Years children.

NAMES IN EVERYTHING



Please make sure your child's name is in all their clothes and shoes so that we are able to return any lost property promptly.

Many thanks.

Book bags and homework



All of our children are provided with a book bag and reading record, which we ask you to sign and comment in so we can see how your child is progressing at home. We ask that **ALL** Reception children bring their **book bag** to school **every MONDAY**. The children will choose a picture book to take home and enjoy for the week with you, as well as being given a phonics book to read by themselves **to you**. The children will bring their book bags home again on **Tuesday**.

We also ask that **book bags** are **returned every Thursday**, so we can check comments and help with any issues. The book bags will be **returned on the same day**.

Our children should read their phonics book 5 times throughout the week, and there is more information in their reading record about this. Their 'story book' is to share together as you please.

On **THURSDAY** we will send homework books. Inside there will be short English and Maths tasks to complete. Homework book should be **returned on Monday**.

Developing RESILIENCE

- * Sometimes our children will find things difficult and that is ok. We want to help them become 'resilient'— to know that making mistakes or being challenged is something that we all face and we can 'bounce back' from this.
- * Help your child by encouraging them when something is hard. For example, if they cannot fit a jigsaw piece into a puzzle but cannot work out what to do, encourage them to think of ways to fix this problem. Let them try their ideas and praise them for 'having a go' even if it doesn't work. Talk to them about their ideas and make other suggestions to try, helping them to solve their problem.

There are seven areas of learning in Early Years. The 'Prime Areas' are the ones that underpin **everything** we do. They are Communication and Language, Personal Social and Emotional development, and Physical development. Our children need to be supported to develop their skills in these areas so that they can achieve their full potential, which is why they are at the forefront of **everything** we plan and do.



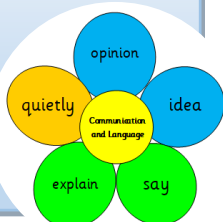
The 'Specific Areas' of learning guide the knowledge we need to teach the children, and are Literacy, Mathematics, Understanding the World and Expressive Arts and Design. These are important and planned into your child's learning, but without the ability to communicate about things, you cannot discuss books or ask questions about new words. Without confident fine motor control, you could not grip a pencil and draw

Below are some ways to support your child at home linked to the Prime Areas of learning. We have also shared the words that we will focus on this half term linked to these areas, so you can enjoy using them at home and talking about what they mean.

We hope this is useful, and if there is any way you think we can further support you at home, please do let us know.

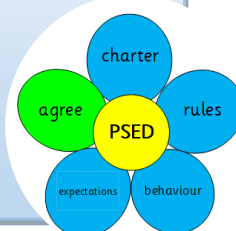
Communication and Language

- * Our special focus is on 'me and my friends' - ask your child to tell you what they have enjoyed doing with their friend today.
- * Enjoy story books together—this could be their school reading for pleasure book, or a favourite book from home or the library. Encourage them to think of ideas about how a story might end and ask for their opinions about what you have read. Help them to explain their thinking.
- * Talk about volume when speaking to each other—it is easy to get louder when we get excited about something, but we sometimes need to learn when it is more appropriate to use a quieter voice, for example, indoors.



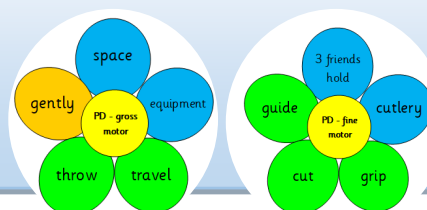
Personal Social and Emotional development

- * Help your child to settle into school by supporting school routines. Try to be cheery even if they are nervous or upset. We will make sure they are well looked after, and please feel free to ring school to check that they are ok.
- * Ask about your child's day and share in the excitement of their new adventure. They probably won't remember much! - but you can start off conversation with gentle prompts such as 'Did you explore outside?' or 'Did you play with a new friend today?'
- * Talk to your child about school routines and expectations about their behaviour. Each class will make their own 'Class Charter' agreeing special rules for their class.



Physical development

- * We are working on developing an awareness of the space around us, always travelling safely into open spaces avoiding obstacles. Play running and catching games at the park with your child, helping them to use all the space available without crashing!
- * Play with balls, bean bags or balled socks, to develop throwing skills. Aim to throw into a target, such as a large bowl, bucket, hoop or chalked circle. Make your aim point large and small and have different points for each one, and see who can get the most!
- * Support your child to always have a '3 friends hold' pencil grip, so they hold their pencil correctly.
- * Encourage your child to use cutlery at meal times so they can be more independent at lunch times!

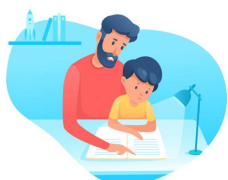


We will be enjoying new 'book hooks' every week— getting to know our stories really well, joining in repeated refrains, sharing our thoughts about the characters and storylines, and deciding if we would recommend these books to our friends.



If your child has enjoyed one of our book hooks, why not head to South Moor library and see if you can borrow it to enjoy at home.

If your child has a favourite book at home, please share this with us— perhaps we can enjoy it in school too!



You can support your child with Literacy and Maths by listening to your child read 5 times a week and adding comments to your child's reading record, and by completing the weekly reading and spelling and maths homework.

Please also send your WOW stars to celebrate your child's achievements at home.
Thank you!



As you know we will be enjoying
learning some special
Nursery Rhymes this half term.

* * *

Please have fun sharing them
at home as well.



Twinkle twinkle little star,
How I wonder what you are.
Up above the world so high,
Like a diamond in the sky.
Twinkle twinkle little star,
How I wonder what you are.



Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall,
Humpty Dumpty had a great fall.
All the kings horses and all the kings men,
Couldn't put Humpty together again.

Hickory dickory dock,
The mouse ran up the clock.
The clock struck one,
The mouse ran down,
Hickory dickory dock.



Two little dickie birds sitting on a wall,
One called Peter, one called Paul.
Fly away Peter, fly away Paul,
Come back Peter, come back Paul.



Incey Wincey spider climbed up the water spout,
Down came the rain and washed the spider out!
Out came the sunshine and dried up all the rain,
So Incey Wincey spider climbed up the spout again.