



Head Teacher: Mrs D Reynolds - BSc Hons QTS NPQH

*Aim High*

*Never Give Up*

*Follow Your Dream*

*Lead By Example*

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you all had a lovely holiday and your children are ready to start their first term in Reception! They have certainly settled very well and I'm very proud of them all.

Our topics this term will develop as the term progresses based on the children's interests but we will start with finding out about ourselves and looking at traditional tales. We will begin by looking at the story of the Three Billy Goat's Gruff.

### **INITIAL LEARNING THEME – All about me and traditional tales**

The main focus for the learning will be:

Communication language and literacy – role play the Three Billy Goat's Gruff Story, making wanted posters for the troll, listening to the story, using puppets, writing our names

Mathematics – counting up to 10 forwards and backwards, one more one less

Physical Development – building bridges and balancing

Understanding the world – building dens to hide from the troll, growing cress, observing seasonal fruits

Expressive arts and design - making traps for the troll, self-portraits, painting our soft toys, making glitter names, songs and rhymes

Personal Social Emotional Development – all about me, learning children and adult names, making friends

### **READING**



The children will be learning about rhymes and pre reading skills this half term. The children will bring a library book home for you to share with your child. We are really looking to promote a real enjoyment of books so anything you can do to support this will be helpful (there is nothing like a good bedtime story!). As the term progresses we will introduce different sounds. We will place the sounds we are looking at in your child's bookbag. Once children are confident with their sounds we will send home a reading book but in the meantime we will be sending books home from our class library, please feel free to change them as you need to as part of the morning routine.

### **SCHOOL BEHAVIOUR SYSTEM**

You may find your child coming out of school telling you they are 'on the rainbow' or the 'shooting star'. This is linked to our behaviour policy, the children move up to the rainbow and shooting star if they have achieved something special in school and then earn house points as a reward. Children who need reminding about their behaviour will receive a warning and have this explained to them. If this continues they move to the 'dark cloud', if your child tells you this please do not worry, it is just to remind the children about our expectations and they can move back up by showing us good learning.

### **PARENT/CARER INVOLVEMENT**

During this term, the foundation team will be putting on three parental workshops. These are to help you to understand how Reception works in key areas. These will cover;

- Communication, Language and Literacy – 26th September 09.00 – 10.30
- Mathematics – 3rd October 09.00 – 10.30
- Early Years Curriculum and Assessment – 10th October 09.00 – 10.30

The sessions will involve listening to an information session on each aspect and then spending time in the classroom working alongside you child. I'm sure these will prove invaluable in understanding out approaches to learning.

### **PE**

PE in Reception will take place throughout the week initially in small groups so we ask that the children bring in their complete kit on a Monday, and leave this at school until Friday.

Children with long hair will need to have it tied back for safety reasons. Any earrings (studs only are allowed in school) will also have to be removed (by the child) or covered with a plaster (which must be supplied from home).

Your child will require the following PE kit (Clearly named):

- Plain white t shirt
- Black/Grey shorts

## **MAX THE MOUSE**

We have been learning about Max the mouse this week and we have adopted him as our class mascot. Unfortunately Max has not got any friends so the children have decided to help him. Max will go home with one child each weekend and it would be great if you could tell us what he got up to. Feel free to request Max for any special weekends you have planned however he is equally happy at home!

## **USEFUL WEBSITES**

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/topics/zf44jxs/videos/1>

<http://www.crickweb.co.uk/Early-Years.html>

<http://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/freeIndex.htm>

<http://www.ruthmiskin.com/en/parents/>

## **FUTURE NEWSLETTERS**

We will be updating you each half term on the curriculum through newsletters but from now on they will be published on the school website <http://www.norwood-school.co.uk/>. They can be accessed on the following link [Reception](#).

Finally I would like to wish you all a fantastic half term, the reception team will be working hard to ensure your children settle well into school and are happy.

Before we close, over the Summer I happened to come across two poems (attached) and thought they may reassure you that we have your children's best interests at heart.

Mrs Hainsworth  
Class Teacher

Miss Greenwood  
Higher Level Teaching Assistant

Mrs Wood  
Teaching Assistant

Mrs D Reynolds  
Head Teacher



Dear Teacher

I know you're rather busy  
First day back, there's just no time  
A whole new class of little ones  
And this one here is mine

I'm sure you have things covered  
And have done this lots before  
But my boy is very little  
He hasn't long turned four

In his uniform this morning  
He looked so tall and steady  
But now beside your great big school  
I'm not quite sure he's ready

Do you help them eat their lunch?  
Are you quick to soothe their fears?  
And if he falls and hurts his knee  
Will someone dry his tears?

And what if no-one plays with him?  
What if someone's mean?  
What if two kids have a fight  
And he's caught in between?

You're right, I have to leave now  
It's time for him to go  
I'm sure he'll learn so much from you  
Things that I don't know

Yes, I'm sure they settle quickly  
That he's fine now without me  
I know he has to go to school  
It's just so fast, you see

It seems like just a blink ago  
I first held him in my arms  
It's been my job to love, to teach  
To keep him safe from harm

So, when I wave goodbye in a moment  
And he turns to walk inside  
Forgive me if I crumple  
Into tears of loss and pride

I know as I give him one more kiss  
And watch him walk away,  
That he'll never again be wholly mine  
As he was before today

Dear Parent,

I understand that you are scared  
to wave your child goodbye  
and leave him in a teacher's hands  
Don't worry if you cry!

I'm used to weeping parents  
It's hard to leave I know.  
But it's time to share him (just a bit)  
To help him learn and grow.

Let me reassure you  
That I'll give your child my best  
I'll wipe his tears, soothe his fears  
And change his dirty vest!

If your precious child is full of cold  
I'll blow their nose all day  
Just like you, I'll care for them  
In a special way.

I'll treat him like I would my own  
I'll catch him from a fall and  
If there is ANY problem  
I'll be sure to tell you all.

It's true he'll grow to love us  
They'll talk of school a lot  
It doesn't mean they hate you  
And that you should lose the plot!

I'll tell you a secret.  
That when your child is here  
They talk to me as much of you  
Of this please have no fear.

You'll always be their parent  
Whilst teachers come and go  
To them you are their number one  
This I truly know.

Soon you'll see some changes  
In your little girl or boy  
They'll become more independent  
And to see this, it's a joy!

I'll teach them all I have to give  
To share, climb and to write  
But to you they safely will return  
To tuck them in at night.

