



Head Teacher: Mrs D Reynolds - BSc Hons QTS NPQH

*Aim High*

*Never Give Up*

*Follow Your Dream*

*Lead By Example*

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2013

Dear Parents/Carers,

A huge thank you for your continued support throughout your child's first term at school. The children have grown in their independence and maturity and continue to have a positive attitude towards learning. We have explored the theme of 'In the Forest', reading various forest themed books and looking at different woodland animals. This letter will briefly outline what we will be looking at in Reception during the next half term.

### **INTERGRATED CURRICULUM**

Next half term we will be under a theme of 'Ice Worlds'. We will be looking at, and basing the learning around, a range of ice related topics such as:

- The Artic and who lives there
- Polar Bears and Penguins
- Freezing and Melting
- Staying Safe
- **'The Snowman'** movie

We will continue to incorporate your child's interests in to our planning so please let us know if your child has a new hobby or interest that we can all learn about!

On **Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> January at 2:45pm** we would like to invite parents into the Reception classroom for a Snow and Ice party. We will provide drinks and will be offering snacks that the children will have made during their time back at school. You are welcome to bring any games that the children may like to play with however these will be under your responsibility to keep safe and the school cannot be held responsible for any loss or damage. The party will end at **3:15pm** where home time will be as normal.

### **HOME LEARNING**

Reception will begin to undertake home learning projects next half term. This is to help consolidate the learning they have been focussed on in school. Home learning will be taken home in green books on Wednesdays and must be returned by the following Tuesday. If you wish to undertake a creative half term project around the topic of 'Ice Worlds', then this can be brought into school and celebrated in class during the first week back. This could be a research topic into Antarctica, the lives of the Inuit people or Artic animals.

### **READ, WRITE, INC**

The Read Write Inc programme is proving successful with the children and we are seeing huge progression from all children in the Reception Class. All children are keen to learn the new sounds and show enthusiasm when in a Read Write Inc session. We are now focusing on Fred talking and moving on to Ditty books. You will receive a slip home to let you know if your child has been moved into the next group to focus on Ditty books.



Your continued support through the Read Write Inc books is highly valued and has helped us understand the support we need to give to your child. Starting to read simple books and encouraging children to read the first set of Fred talk words will help support your child further.

### **CORE LEARNING SKILLS**

During the next half term our learning skills will focus on 'Improving own Learning and Performance'. Reception will focus on these 'I can' statements:

- I can show what I think is good about a piece of work I have just done
- I can make simple judgements about my work i.e. what I think is good, what is not so good
- I can show knowledge of daily routines in school and am beginning to anticipate without prompts
- I can follow a one or two part verbal instruction given by an adult

To support your child's learning you may wish to follow some of these learning skills at home.

### **ORBIT**

As you are aware we have moved to using the online application 'Orbit' to collect observations in the hope of reducing time and paperwork. This application allows the Reception team to share observations and assessments with parents instantly, providing unlimited access. The application has allowed us to track which areas children need the most support and in which areas children are excelling in. A big thank you to the parents who have signed up and have started to input home observations (postcards), which really help us to build a picture of what the children are doing out of school. If you have not signed up to Orbit or are having problems using the website, then please speak to a member of the Reception team. Please continue to check your email inbox or spam folders for the invitation email. If you cannot sign up then please be aware that you are welcome to look through your child's red folder (where Orbit observations are placed) at a time that is most convenient.

### **PHYSICAL DEVELOPEMENT**

Our PE time will continue to be Monday mornings; however we may choose other opportunities throughout the week for Physical Development. Depending upon the weather we will be using indoor and outdoor facilities and so it would be ideal for your child to have their full PE kit in school at all times. A reminder that jewellery is not permitted in school however stud earrings are acceptable if they are covered with plasters provided from home for PE lessons.

### **LOST PROPERTY**

It is vital that all items of your child's clothing are **clearly** named, including shoes. As personal items are difficult to recognise, it will enable members of the team to identify your child's clothing immediately. If unnamed items of clothing are found, they will be placed in the Lost Property box in the children's cloakroom.

### **SCHOOL COMMUNICATION**

Please check that the office has your correct e-mail address if you have chosen to receive any school correspondence such as newsletters electronically. Also check with your e-mail account that school emails are enabled and not being filtered into the spam folder.

Parent information is also placed on the notice board outside our classroom. Please ensure that you check this regularly. We will happily give copies of this information to parents who are unable to pick up or drop off their child at school. Whenever letters are sent out with reply slips, we will endeavour to add spare paper copies to the notice board.



We aim to reduce the amount of paper used by sending letters through email, however we understand that printers are not always reliable and therefore you may also use email to reply to those messages to school. If you wish to speak to members of the Reception Team, we are available from 8:45-8:55am and 3:15-3:25pm. For longer discussions please make an appointment at the office.

We thank you once again for a fantastic first full term, and have a great Christmas and New Year!

Yours sincerely

The Reception Team

Mr Alletson  
Class Teacher

Miss Greenwood  
Teaching Assistant

Mrs Reynolds  
Head Teacher

