



Head Teacher : Mrs D Reynolds - BSc Hons QTS NPQH

Aim High

Never Give Up

Follow Your Dream

Lead By Example

October 2012

Dear Parents/Carers,

We would like to start off by thanking you all for helping your child to settle in to the Reception class. Many children are completing morning routines independently and some children are even saying goodbye at the classroom door! A big well done to all of the adults involved in making this a smooth transition period for the children in to primary school.

INTERGRATED CURRICULUM

Our topic this term is 'All About Me'. So far we have been looking at:

- My body
- Keeping Healthy
- Senses
- My feelings
- Being a good friend

This next half term's activities will focus on:

- My day and night
- My home
- My community
- The people who help us.

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!

HOME LEARNING

In addition to our weekly homework, your child can choose to undertake a half-term home learning project, which could be the focus of their homework for the beginning of the term. This project is not compulsory, but is a fantastic way to involve family and friends in their learning. This can involve the whole family and should be linked to our topic theme.

As the build up to Christmas begins, we would like the children to share some of their own 'Special times and Special things' through our Home Learning Project next half term. We ask adults to support the children in creating a way to share their special times and things with the children in their class.

READ, WRITE, INC

At Norwood we have adopted Read, Write, Inc as our phonics program to teach children early reading and writing skills. Since April 2008 Read, Write, Inc has proved to be very successful and our children continue to enjoy their learning. The children will learn a new sound each day, revising those taught at the end of every five days. We will be sending out a booklet to help you to support your child's writing at the beginning of the new half term, with the sounds we have learned so far highlighted. We will also display the sounds we are working on each week on the Parent Notice Board, which can be found in the Reception playground. We ask that you work through the sounds that we have covered so far in class and wait until we have completed other new sounds before completing those pages of the booklet. Working through these booklets is completely voluntary but when work is completed in them please send the books back into school so that we can share the children's work with the class and enjoy their success.

When writing the letters you may wish to vary your approach. You might choose to help your child to write the letters using a paintbrush, in sand or simply by making the movement with your child's finger in the air. Please support your child to learn and revise the sounds. This home learning does not have a due date but will be reviewed regularly. Ideally, children should practise the sounds for 5-10 minutes per day. To support your child with this you could go on a sound walk, hunting for objects that start with the same sound, practice writing sounds with your child using a variety of materials, make sound pictures, spot sounds on everyday objects (car registration plates, cereal boxes) or blend familiar sounds together to make words.

CORE LEARNING SKILLS

During the next half term our learning skills will focus on 'Developing Independence and Responsibility'. Reception will focus on these 'I can' statements:

- I can make simple choices about what is good to eat / good for me and what is not.
- I can express my opinion of right and wrong.
- I can suggest ways to help others.
- I can demonstrate that I understand basic rules and routines by following them.

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

PE

Our PE time will continue to be Tuesday afternoons, 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. We remind you 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 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

It has come to our attention that some parents have not been receiving school letters and information about important dates. Please check that the office has your correct e-mail address if you receive newsletters electronically. Also check with your e-mail account that school emails are enabled and not being filtered into the spam folder. If you prefer to receive a paper copy of the letters please arrange this with the office.



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 8:45-8:55 am and 3:15-3:25 pm. For longer discussions please make an appointment at the office.

We thank you again for all of your support with your child's learning.

Yours sincerely

The Reception Team

Mrs Church

Mrs Greenwood

Miss Lovell

Mrs Reynolds

