



EAST SHEEN PRIMARY SCHOOL

RECEPTION CURRICULUM BULLETIN

SPRING TERM

Dear parents and carers,

We hope you all had an enjoyable and relaxing holiday. Thank you for the wonderful cards and gifts that you gave to us for Christmas – we are a very lucky Reception Team. Here is our spring term bulletin to inform you all about the work being covered by your child in the coming weeks and months.

Topic Titles: “People who help us” and “All around the world”

During the ‘people who help us’ topic, we will be learning about people in our community and the roles they have. We are hoping that we will be able to organise visits from people who help us including the police/fire brigade, as well as a doctor/nurse and vet who will come in and explain to the children how they help us. To support this topic, our role-play areas will be set up to reflect the everyday job roles around us. If you have a job that you think the children would like to learn about, you are more than welcome to come in and talk to the children about what your role entails. Please let your class teacher know as this does provide excellent learning opportunities.

During the ‘all around the world’ topic, we will be developing an understanding of the world that we live in. We will be learning about where we come from, different cultures and religious festivals, as well as important events in our history. We will also be looking at how climates and wildlife differ in different parts of the world. In line with this topic, we will be linking our learning with one of our school priorities - focusing on the environment and particularly the awareness of endangered species, as we are ‘Guardians of the Animals’.

Communication and Language and Literacy

Literacy activities will encourage the children to write for a purpose using the sounds and skills they have learnt so far, including writing letters, lists and menus, as well as labelling pictures. Children will be encouraged to use spaces between words (finger spaces) and taught when to use a full stop and capital letter. We will continue to encourage the development of their fine motor skills, including accurate letter formation and neat handwriting (which can be read by themselves and others).

As we informed you at the end of the autumn term, children have been reassessed in phonics and have now been streamed into ability-based groups. We will continue with our ‘Read, Write, Inc’ phonics programme, which will see children (according to their ability group) introduced to Set 2 letter sounds, and/or revising Set 1 sounds from term one as appropriate. High frequency/red words will also continue to be introduced, so please practise these words regularly as you read with your child and look out for them in your child’s at home learning pack each Friday.

Speaking and listening skills will be promoted throughout group and whole class activities, by listening attentively and responding to stories and class discussions, as well as learning songs and rhymes.

Mathematics

In our mathematics work this term, the children will be involved in practical activities that will develop the following concepts:

- Recognition of numbers up to 10
- Composition of numbers up to 10
- Comparing numbers up to 10, including one more and one less
- Subitising
- Comparing mass/capacity
- Making pairs
- Combining 2 groups
- Length and height
- Time
- Number bonds up to 10 (including the use of part-whole models and ten frames)
- 3-D shapes
- Patterns

We will continue to send out maths-based home learning sheets each Friday, which will be an overview of what they have learnt that week. Please continue to reinforce correct number formation at home.

Understanding the World

This term we will be learning about the celebrations of Chinese New Year and Easter, as well as the traditions within these celebrations. Activities will include making dragon masks, and acting out the story with some dragon dancing. We will also learn about Shrove Tuesday and Easter, amongst other key celebrations and religious events throughout the term, including Ramadan.

Expressive Arts and Design

Children will be using a range of media to display work for the classroom role-play areas and experience a full range of creative activities through our topics. The children will learn topic related songs and be given opportunities to explore how sounds are made by different instruments. We will listen to a range of music and discuss how it makes us feel, exploring these feelings through movement or dance.

We will also be encouraging the children to plan and design models before they embark on their creations, thus developing their skills to evaluate and make thoughtful modifications of their work and enabling them to adapt their constructions where necessary.

Physical Development

During indoor PE we will be focusing on gymnastics and movement skills this term. We will be using a variety of different apparatus to perform rolling, stretching and balancing activities as well as thinking of interesting and varied ways to travel and move our bodies.

Children will continue to have their outdoor PE session with NS Sport on Tuesday afternoons which will focus on invasion games involving ball control skills, agility and hand/eye coordination. If the weather is particularly cold, please send your child in wearing appropriate clothing for this day (e.g. long trousers, an extra layer under their PE t-shirt and a coat). We will promote independence in dressing and undressing, helping the children to develop their fine-motor skills and positive self-image.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

We will be continuing our Jigsaw Scheme. The first half term the children will do the 'Dreams and Goals' unit working towards an objective, which will reinforce the 'Stick with it' Habit of Mind. During the second half of the term, the children will do the 'Healthy Me' unit, which will be a reminder of what they learnt in the autumn term, as we will be talking about different ways of making healthy choices in our lives and diet.

Thinking Schools

We will continue to use thinking maps to develop skills in organising our thoughts, but will focus more on habits of mind this term. We will use these to help children understand ways to maintain positive attitudes towards their learning. Each habit of mind has a catchy and easy to understand phrase, these are: taking good risks; sticking with it; thinking flexibly; good questions; thinking about thinking; thinking together; stop and think; use your knowledge; new ideas; that's funny; wow; five senses; being clear; listening; get it right; learning forever.

Other

In Reception we are always in need of items that can be reused for junk modelling including corks, boxes, tubes, ribbons, lids, buttons etc so please do send these in with your child if you think they could be of any use.

We are always very grateful to receive any donations in the form of jigsaws, games, role play toys e.g. emergency vehicles, books, dress up items etc that you were thinking of giving away to charity when having a clear out. So please check with us before you do!

Finally, we would like to thank you for continuing to support your child in developing their independence and settling into their first year of primary school. As always, we are more than happy to speak to you if you have any concerns or questions so please do let us know so that we can continue the positive home-school relationships that have been built up already this school year.

Happy New Year!

Best wishes,

The Reception Team