



# Reception Curricular Letter

## Summer 1 2024-How does your garden grow?

Welcome back everybody. I hope you all managed to have a relaxing and peaceful Easter break. The children have settled back into the routines of school brilliantly and I couldn't be prouder for how they have started this summer term.

This curriculum newsletter will tell you all about the units and areas of learning being covered in this half term. The children in Acorn Class will be learning the same topics but will cover the specific year group expectations for Year R, 1 and 2. Our topic is called 'How does your garden grow?' and many of our activities will relate to this.

Reading books should be sent into school each day children will be given the opportunity to change these daily. We aim to read with children several times a week and we do encourage children to read at home regularly.

Children are encouraged to bring a drinks bottle to school each day, **filled with water**. I have noticed some children have juice or flavoured water and school policy is water, in line with Change for Life initiatives.

Lunches must come in either a carrier bag that can be binned daily or a small lunch bag/box that can be cleaned easily. Please try to ensure lunches are a healthy balance of choices.

All PE kit and school uniform must be **labelled**, so if lost, they can be easily returned to you.

Thank you once again for your continued support. The relationship between school, parent and child has never been more crucial and by continuing to work together, we can ensure that every child in the whole school, will have an exciting, enjoyable and memorable half term. If you need any support, assistance or guidance please do send me a Class Dojo message.

Many thanks,  
*Mrs Barclay*  
Teacher

### Days to Remember

#### Monday

New books issued  
After School club  
Film Club

#### Tuesday

PE  
After School club  
Paid wraparound care  
is available

#### Wednesday

#### Thursday

After School club  
Performing Arts

#### Friday

PE  
After School club  
Tennis

This half term our topic is 'How does your garden grow?'. As with the start of all our topics, we will discuss it with the children to find out what they already know about it and what they want to find out. This will form the basis of our weekly planning so that we can try to plan from the children's interests.



## **LITERACY**

All Literacy work is closely linked to the horticultural theme. This term we will be reading both fiction and non-fiction books and using the internet to find out more information about the plants and animals. Our books will focus on Peter Rabbit and include the adventures of Percy the Park Keeper. As ever, we will continue to add to this list as we find out the children's interests. This half term, we will continue to build on the children's speaking and listening skills. This will be developed through whole class and small group discussions. Children will be encouraged to speak in a variety of situations (role play, hot seating, and circle time) and we will develop their confidence when speaking to an audience. We will also be discussing stories during whole class, guided groups and individual reading sessions. With their talk partners, the children will be encouraged to ask and answer questions how and why questions.

As we progress through Red Rose phonics scheme, the sounds your child has been focusing on that week are sent home in their book bags. It is important to practise these sounds with your child as well as the tricky words. We are encouraging the children to form letters correctly, i.e. starting and finishing in the correct place. As always, we will provide the children with lots of opportunities for independent reading and writing inside and outside the classroom. Pupils will be encouraged to correctly use capital letters and full stops.

### **How you can help at home?**

- When reading with your child at home, ask 'how' and 'why' questions to prompt discussion.
- Explain the meaning of new words your child comes across to help extend their vocabulary.
- Talk to your child about the phonemes and 'tricky' words that we have been learning at school.
- Read with your child at home on a regular basis, modelling how to sound out individual phonemes and blend them together.
- When writing independently, encourage your child to use their knowledge of phonics to make their own attempts at spelling whilst using a correct pencil grip.

### Early writing activities:

- Drawing letter shapes in the air to music
- Copying over letter shapes
- Drawing letters in sand or shaving foam spread thinly on a table.
- Write with chalk, crayons, finger paints, pencils, pens etc.
- Recognition of letters through touch (stick letters, magnetic letters, fuzzy felt, sand paper letters).
- Drawing or writing with chalks on the ground or pavement
- Water painting on outdoor walls with paintbrush.

**Phonic Books:** These books give your child the opportunity to practice the sounds and skills they have been taught in phonics, so they are a really important and should be prioritised out the two. **These are books that the children should read independently to someone at home.**

**Home Readers:** These books are not decodable and do not match where the children are in phonics. Therefore, this is a book which an adult should read to the child for enjoyment and pleasure. **We strongly advise you to read these books with your child,** maybe discussing a page at a time or reading to each other. These books provide a great opportunity to develop comprehension skills and develop vocabulary

**If you're struggling to find time to read both (Phonics and Home Reader), we would prefer you to read the phonics books first.**

**Bug Club** <https://www.activelearnprimary.co.uk/login?c=0> Don't forget, you can access online phonics e-books for your child to read at home at the weekends on Bug Club. The books have been selected for your child, according to the level they are reading

## **MATHS**

The children's mathematical development is furthered through focused activities in small groups with an adult and through play. During the term, we will continue to build on children's knowledge of numbers up to 20. We are continuing to use White Rose Maths to support our maths lessons. The overarching unit for this term is called 'To 20 and beyond'. We will also be exploring 3D shapes, including identifying them and manipulating them to create and follow patterns.

### **How can you help at home?**

- Help your child to recognise and order the numbers 0 to 20 and spot numbers when you are out and about.
- Whilst playing games at home, or at any appropriate opportunity, encourage your child to count in a stable order, with 1:1 correspondence (touch the object as they count for accuracy).
- Practise recognising and forming numerals
- Roll a dice, use a number generator or pick a number card out of a pot, can you say the number that is one more? Can you say the number that is one less?

As with all our work in Reception, the topics involve a strong emphasis on practical activities to develop children's learning. Thank you for your support so far and if at any time throughout the year you may have questions or thoughts on your child's work or well-being, please feel free to catch me after school or send me a message via Class Dojo.

Many thanks,

*Karen Barclay*

Teacher