Reception Group Curricular Letter

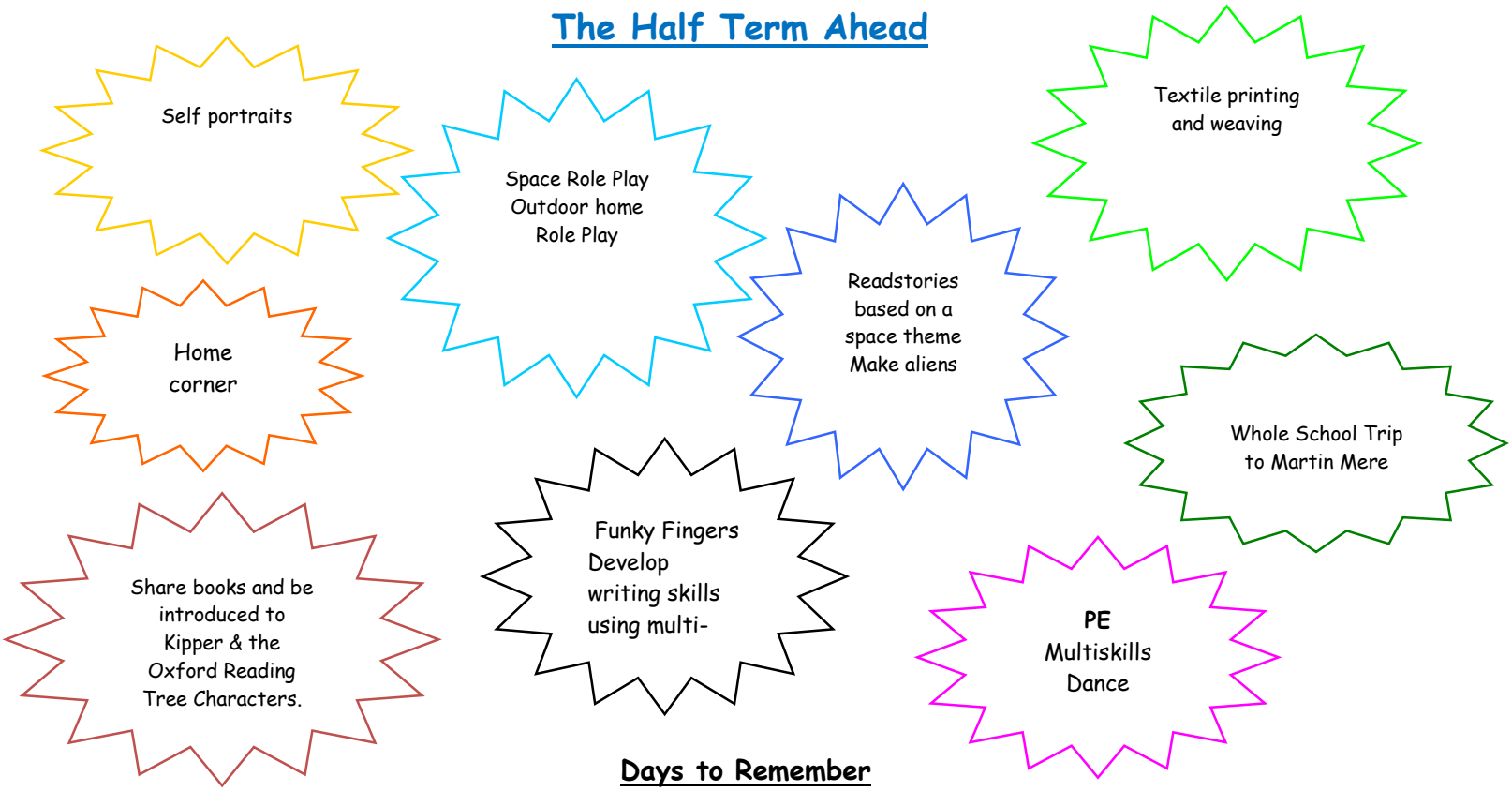
Autumn 1 2022 – Reach for the stars!

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to Mossy Lea. What an incredible start to the new academic year we have had. It's great to have your children join us and the atmosphere around school is electric. I do hope you managed to have a brilliant break over the summer and managed to recharge your batteries. The children have made a fantastic start to the year and have settled into the new routines fantastically, I know we can make this year an exciting and successful one. I am really looking forward to the year we have ahead of us and I can't wait to begin exploring the topics we have lined up for the year with the class.

This half term our topic is 'Reach for the stars'. Children will learn about similarities and differences between themselves and others, and between families, communities, and traditions. We will speak about eating healthily and the importance of exercise. 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.

The Half Term Ahead



Days to Remember

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Reading and Phonics books changed for the week.	PE Arts and Crafts after School		Performing Arts after School	Rugby after school club

PHONICS

As an introduction to phonics, we will be reviewing oral blending and oral segmenting from phase 1 of the Red rose scheme. These two skills are the foundation for all future reading and writing and it's important that we spend time consolidating these skills before we start teaching the children their letter sounds. The skill of oral blending enables the children to push single sounds together so that they can hear whole words. The skill of oral segmenting enables the children to break down words into their smallest single sound components. After consolidating their phase 1 knowledge, we will move on to teaching the first set of sounds..

At Mossy Lea, we follow the Red Rose scheme to teach Phonics and use a variety of the songs and actions to compliment this. All children will be working for fifteen minutes every day in their phonics groups, and they will begin learning the sounds (phonemes) of the alphabet. Pupils will learn four sounds each week and in groups will practise saying, recognising, writing, and hearing sounds. Once the children know a few sounds, we can start putting them together to create simple CVC words for reading and writing i.e. (sat, pin and tap etc). Each new sound will be placed into your child's phonic book so they can practise at home. Parents are encouraged to discuss sounds and letter names, write lower- and upper-case letters and find objects which begin and end with each sound.

READING

Pupils will participate in whole class reading sessions with big books, take part in at least one guided group reading session a week and will have opportunities to read and discuss their books individually. Classroom activities will also develop the children's understanding of books and develop the strategies the children need to assist their reading. The books your child will bring home will include a home reader (generally a story from the Oxford Reading Tree Scheme), a phonetically decodeable text based on their phonic phase and a book from the school library that your child will chose independently. Please share and talk together about what is happening in the story and encourage your child to look carefully at the sounds, words, and pictures. It is helpful if you can write in your child's reading record book if you have read or shared the books as this will help the staff to monitor the strategies your child uses to read. Your child will also bring home 'tricky word' or 'keyword' bookmarks, words that your child will be expected to recognise by sight. Please keep it in your child's book bag so it can be changed when necessary.

WRITING

Pupils will continue to practise writing their names, remembering a capital letter at the beginning only. Each child will be encouraged to write their name on all pieces of work and as often as possible. We will be practising letter formation weekly using various tools such as pens, paint brushes, sand, chalk and play dough. In addition, all children will be participating in activities developed to improve their fine motor skills and their pencil control. Pupils will learn about some of_the purposes we have for writing and will be given opportunities to write using their emergent writing and phonic strategies.

Home Reading

We will change your child's reading books once a week on a Monday. Children have opportunities to read during daily phonics, as part of a group (guided reading) and independently with school staff. Please write the title of the book you have read with your child in their reading record (so we can aim to avoid sending the same book home twice) and add comments about your child's reading in the reading record book. **Children are expected to read at home with an adult every day whether it be 2 or 10 pages.** If your child reads their own books at home, please feel free to make a note of this in their reading records. Our reading records have a reward system where children can be awarded stickers by parents. When you have recorded their sticker award in their reading record we will back this up with a certificate that will be sent home.

Bug Club http://www.bugclub.co.uk/

You can access online e-books for your child to read at home on Bug Club. The books have been selected for your child, according to the level they are reading. Usernames and passwords will be sent home shortly.

Reading Meeting

This year's Reading Meeting for reception parents will be held in school on **Thursday, 22st September at 15:45.** Children can join in with the after school club free of charge. This is a chance for us to explain the complex matter of teaching reading. During the meeting we will cover how we teach phonics, how reading records are used in school, which books will be sent home and when and how you can support your child at home. We will also explain other aspects related to reception such as Seesaw, emergent writing, and early

MATHS

This term will focus mainly on developing your child's pre-counting skills. This will involve sorting items into groups, identifying similarities and differences and making patterns. We will spend much of our time asking the children to 'say what you see' and modelling giving answers using full sentences such as, 'They are the same because', 'They are different because' and 'I can see…'. On top of this we will begin to develop your child's ability to subitise amounts which means being able to identify how many items are in a group without counting. This is a skill which precedes counting and only applies to small groups up to an average of 5 objects

The children's mathematical development is furthered through whole class work, through focused activities in small groups with an adult and through play. This work is practical and fun with limited recording at this stage. Sessions will focus on children being provided with practical activities to help them compare, sort, match, sequence, and count. Through such first-hand experience, children will develop an understanding of numbers and use the appropriate mathematical language involved. We will count and calculate, recognise numbers, make sets, sort, and compare objects, and learn names and properties of 2D/3D shapes. We will begin to understand addition as the grouping together of objects and find numbers one more than numbers to ten. As well as a focused numeracy session the children will have opportunities during child-initiated play to play number games and to follow up ideas started during the lesson.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

We want the children to feel happy and confident at school. This half term the children's learning in the area of Personal and Social Development focuses on supporting the children in settling into school and developing their independence in this new setting. They will become more confident and independent when separating from whoever brings them to school. They will gain independence in using the snack bar, having lunch, negotiating playtimes and managing their own hygiene. They will learn to follow the class rules and routines and to play co-operatively, imaginatively and appropriately in the different areas of the classroom and the outdoor areas.

As part of our behaviour management policy the school has 'Class Dojo points'. Children achieve class dojos for pleasing effort, achievement and attitude. On a Friday, achievement certificates are given for the 2 highest scoring Dojo winners.

Wellington Boots and Waterproofs

We place a great emphasis on both indoor and outdoor learning. Therefore, please ensure that your child brings appropriate clothing every day, depending on the weather.

It would also be helpful if they always have wellington boots in school at all times as we will be using the outdoors including our outdoor kitchen in all weathers!

Baseline Assessments

Statutory Reception Baseline Assessment (RBA)
Prior to children starting their Reception year, we spend time speaking to preschool practitioners and reading all the documentation sent into school (all about me books, learning journeys etc) so we can gain an understanding of the whole child and where they are at in terms of their learning and development. During the first half term in Reception, all staff use ongoing assessments, observations, and conversations with the child to develop a baseline assessment. This identifies each individual child's starting points in all areas so we can plan experiences to ensure progress. This information is tracked on Seesaw and in subject specific books.

We are also participating in the Statutory Reception Baseline Assessment (RBA). This assessment focuses on 'Language, Communication and Literacy,' and 'Mathematics.' The purpose of this is to show the progress children make from Reception until the end of KS2.

A speech and language assessment will also be carried out during the baseline period in Reception to identify children's language and communication skills level. This is assessment informs us if the child is at expected for their age, requires intervention, or needs to be referred for specialist support. We work closely with Speech and Language Therapy Services, and we are able to draw on specialist support should it be needed.

Seesaw

Seesaw is a simple way for teachers and students to record and share what's happening in the classroom. Your child's teachers can send you photographs, videos, notes, links to websites and can upload documents. This can be to show you the work your child has done or to set work and share important information. There are two different ways to access Seesaw both as a parent and as a child, either using a laptop/ desktop computer, or through a phone or tablet by downloading the app. Seesaw can be accessed by parents or by children, and each option looks rather different. All comments, photos, videos, and notes added by parents or children will need to be approved by the class teacher before they are published. This is to ensure that safe and appropriate content is published for others to view.

A Tutorial of Seesaw Home Learning for Parents.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W9FyB1SCbeM

Usernames and passwords will be sent home shortly.

NOTES FOR PARENTS

- Reading books should be sent into school each day in children's red bag. We will change all children's books once a week on a Monday and collect in the books on a Friday. Children will not bring home books over the weekend. This is to ensure the books are clean before redistributing on the Monday. Bug Club will be available for reading over the weekend. The login details for this will be sent home separately.

- The school provides children with a piece of fruit each day (free or charge) or toast (20p a day). If you would prefer your child to bring his/her own snack to school, please keep in mind that we are a healthy school and it should be a piece of fruit or veg.

- Children are encouraged to bring a drinks bottle, **filled with water**, to school each day. This can be refiileed during the day.

- Lunches must come in either a carrier bag that can be binned daily or a small lunch bag/box that can cleaned easily.

- Please ensure that your child has their PE kit in school. It will be sent home at the end of each half term.

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

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
Class Teacher