



# Autumn Curriculum Newsletter – Reception



## Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome to Highfield Primary, it was lovely to meet you all on your transition visits and our newsletter hopefully clarifies questions you may have asked already and pre-empt any further queries you may have.

Just as a reminder the teachers in RGS are: Mrs Shelley who works Monday to Wednesday and Mrs Garbutt who works Wednesday (pm) to Friday. RH is taught by Mrs Hargrave who works full-time. The teaching assistants who work across the Reception unit are Mrs Robinson, Mrs Cannon, Mrs Harrison, Mrs Afzal and Mrs Ballantyne.

## School Times

School starts at **8.55am**, the school gates open at 8.45am and the bell will ring at 8.55 and the children will come into school independently. Please ensure that you are in the playground before the bell rings as **late arrivals are recorded**. Make sure you remain with your child until our doors open and you have handed them to a member of staff.

School finishes at **3.30pm**, the school gates open at 3.15pm. We ask that RH parents wait at the rear door near the steps and RGS parents collect children from their drop off point. At the end of the day children will be sent to parents by a staff member to ensure a safe handover. **Please be prompt when dropping off and collecting your child.**

**If somebody different to 'normal' is collecting your child, please inform us in person or via the school office.**

## What your child needs to bring to school each day:

- Waterproof coat, school jumper or cardigan – **clearly named**.
- Sun hat/gloves, scarf etc – weather dependent. **Again, clearly named**.
- Named drinks bottle containing **water only** and additional piece of fruit if required for snack time.

## PE

Children's PE kits remain in school on their peg and will be sent home at the end of each half-term. **Due to space restrictions, please place them in a drawstring bag. Please ensure all items are clearly labelled.**

## Home Learning

**Reading:** Every Wednesday your child will bring home 2 books. Advice will be given in the Reading Record identifying skills to learn or areas to develop. Please write a short comment to inform us of your child's effort before returning the books to school on a Monday morning. A simple 5 minutes a day can make the world of difference.

**Tapestry Activities:** Phonic sounds, tricky words and cursive handwriting letter of the week will to be uploaded for your child to practise with you.

Additionally, we will upload Maths activities along with links to suitable games, apps and websites for you to access and support your child's learning at home. Topic related requests may also be made to enhance their learning.

Please upload photos or videos of 'Wow moments' from home as the children enjoy sharing these with the class.

## Important Days

### Monday

Return reading books

### Wednesday

PE (Named kits to be left in school)

Reading books will be sent home

### Friday

Fruity Friday 40p / Juicy Friday 50p

## Important Dates

### Training Days:

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October  
Monday 9<sup>th</sup> October  
Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December

4<sup>th</sup> October – 'Watch us learn' 9.05-9.35

Parent Consultations-  
Wed 18<sup>th</sup> & Thurs 19<sup>th</sup> October

Phonics information evening for parents-  
Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October, 3.45-4.30pm

School closes for half term Friday 27<sup>th</sup>  
October

School reopens Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November

Pumpkin Disco – Wed 8<sup>th</sup> November

Christmas Fair – 6<sup>th</sup> December

7<sup>th</sup> December – Book Look 3.30-4.00

Christmas Crafts – TBC

Reception Nativity – Tues 12<sup>th</sup> December –  
10.30am

Christmas Carols – Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December

School closes Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December  
– reopens Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January

## ENGLISH

- Introducing Phase 1 phonics working on listening skills, oral segmenting and blending and rhyming.
- Followed by Phase 2 phonics focussing on hearing & identifying initial sounds in words and learning the sounds & names of the alphabet. This will help children to orally segment & blend to write and read simple words independently.
- Children will practise writing their first name – capital letter at the beginning and then lower case using the cursive script.
- Children will practise forming a cursive letter each week to develop their handwriting skills.
- In addition, children will also learn to recognise their first name through self-registration and other activities.
- Key texts will be used throughout our topics of Traditional Tales, Ourselves, Autumn & Festivals to develop comprehension skills and used as a stimuli to encourage mark-making.

## PSE

Lots of opportunities to build relationships with both peers and adults to establish positive foundations for learning.

Children will be encouraged to be independent in dressing & undressing, in choosing activities & resources and to understand what their bodies need and when.

To develop an awareness of emotions and learn how to express them appropriately and understand that others may feel differently. They will learn ways to resolve conflicts fairly and to build self-esteem, respect and resilience in line with the school motto of being 'ready, respectful and safe'.

## Physical development.

The children will develop fine motor skills through painting, cutting, drawing, threading, weaving and manipulating resources, alongside weekly 'Funky Finger' activities. Cursive handwriting will be introduced weekly to develop handwriting skills.

Gross motor skills will be developed through movement & dance in PE. Through outdoor play provision children will develop spatial awareness, balance, climbing, muscle development using wheeled vehicles. Children will be encouraged to be more independent in their use of cutlery at lunch.

## Expressive Arts and Design

The children will develop their cutting, painting, drawing, role play and junk modelling skills in the areas of provision and through activities linked to our topics.

We will learn a number of topic songs in singing and within our music sessions the children will explore ways in producing different sounds, patterns and rhythms using their bodies and percussion instruments.

## MATHS

- Develop skills in number recognition, ordering, counting and subitising numbers 0 to 5.
- Practise correct number formation. For numerals 0 to 5.
- Learn how to combine two sets of objects using a variety of equipment to make a number up to 5, learning the vocabulary of addition (and / altogether makes).
- Alongside this we introduce o'clock, 2d shapes, money and 1:1 correspondence whilst looking at each individual number 'the oneness of 1'.
- Learn to recognise, copy and recreate repeating patterns.
- Learn to match, sort and compare objects for size and use the associated vocabulary – little, big, biggest and in-between.
- Develop awareness of measuring quantities when baking bread and gingerbread.
- Recognise and name properties of 2d shapes learning the appropriate language – circle, square, triangle, rectangle, semi-circle, sides, straight, corners, flat, round, curved.

## Communication and Language

We will provide lots of opportunities for speaking and listening during carpet sessions and within children's independent play in the areas of provision. Focussing on how to listen carefully, why it is important and to learn how to turn take in conversations.

Opportunities will be provided for children to formulate their own ideas and opinions and learn to use longer phrases to develop their expressive language.

They will learn new vocabulary through our topic work: Traditional Tales, Ourselves, Autumn, Festivals.

## Understanding the World.

The children will learn about 'Past & Present' through a variety of topics: Families & Ourselves, People Who Help us in School.

The children will learn about why and how Festivals from around the world are celebrated, looking at the stories, special places, customs & traditions. (Harvest Festival, Bonfire Night, Remembrance Day, Diwali, Hanukah, Advent & Christmas).

We will explore our natural world and make observations and comparisons through baking, our seasonal Autumn Walk and learn about our 5 senses (sight, hearing, smell taste, touch).

The children will learn how to use an interactive whiteboard, interactive table iPads and program a Code-a-pillar and explore a variety of technology toys.

Please see the school [website](#) should you require further information about the Reception curriculum.

## Don't be late through the gate!

School starts at 8.55am. Getting your child to school on time really matters. Arriving late is upsetting for your child and disruptive for the rest of the class.

**Being regularly late adds up to a loss of learning time.**

5 mins late everyday = over 3 days of learning lost every year

10 mins late everyday = over 7 days of learning lost every year

15 mins late everyday = over 2 weeks of learning lost every year

20 mins late everyday = nearly 3 weeks of learning lost every year

30 mins late everyday = over 4 weeks of learning lost every year



### Safeguarding and Child Protection

For any child protection issues please contact Mr Feeley, Mrs Bowker, Mrs McVeigh or Mrs Calvert and we will support you with any concerns or sensitive issues you may be dealing with.

Mrs McVeigh is the school SENDCo and can help you with any questions or concerns.

Please contact [admin@highfield.leeds.sch.uk](mailto:admin@highfield.leeds.sch.uk) should you wish to speak to us.