

Dear Parents / Carers

We hope you are going to have a lovely winter break and we are looking forward to seeing you after! This newsletter will provide you with useful information about work that your child will be covering next Spring 1 half term. As you will already be aware, attendance and punctuality is of high importance so please make sure your child is in school, on time each day. Any appointments should be made out of school hours where possible and absences notified to the school office. If you need to speak to us about any concerns please can this be done over the email as we would like to get children into class promptly to start the day's lessons.

Start of day

Children should be in the line at 8:55 ready to walk into school with their peers at 9:00. Registration and activities start promptly so we do not want your child to miss out on any valuable learning time.

Uniform

The children are expected to wear school uniform every day. This must include a white shirt, black trousers or the Oriel blue skirt. Children are expected to wear black school shoes and as the children are still very young, it would be beneficial to them and us if their shoes were slip on or Velcro. During this Spring term please can the children bring in an outdoor coat as it will still be cold and they do participate in learning activities outdoors. No umbrellas are needed as they do not use them in school.

Maths

In Spring 1 half term children will be naming 3D shapes and looking at their properties. They will also be using mathematical language to describe the position (over, under, above, below, top, bottom and side). Children will be exploring the seasons and will learn about the months of the year. Days of the year will also be taught and children will look at sequencing them in order.

English

In our English lessons, we will be exploring stories around the theme of space (Whatever Next and How to Catch a Star). In these lessons, children will focus on their pencil grip, posture and sitting letters on the line.

Reading

The majority of your child's reading at school will take place as a 1:1 with a class teacher or teaching assistant. These sessions will focus on reading skills of segmenting and blending and will also look at the comprehension of texts. When you listen to your child read please write a short comment in their Reading Journal and a note to say if they have finished the book so that we can change it.

Phonics

During our daily Phonics sessions, we will be working on a variety of sounds. We will be following the Letters and Sounds Programme and will introduce new sounds as and when your child is ready. In the Spring term children will be looking at phase 2 and phase 3.

P.E.

We have P.E. once a week. P.E. will continue to be on Wednesdays. Please ensure your child wears their P.E. kit for the day – blue shorts, white T-shirt and plimsolls/plain trainers (Velcro, not laces). Tracksuit bottoms (blue) and jumper are permitted in winter months. Children should not be wearing jewellery and any children with long hair should have it tied back.

Topic work

Our topic this term will be '**space**' so our activities will focus on this theme. In Spring 1 half term, we will be learning about planets, the moon and astronauts. We will also be looking at 'caring for other things' such as animals. We will be looking at the friendship and how to care for our friends in terms of sharing and using nice words.

Reminders

- We are happy to ring you if you have any concerns, questions or problems. After school is the best time for a longer discussion. Please email the office and a class teacher will ring you to discuss any questions or issues you may have.
- Please label all of your child's uniform, P.E. kit, coats, scarves, gloves.
- We will send home the 'WOW Cloud' – please help us celebrate your child's home achievement!

Thank you for your co-operation. We look forward to working with you and your children this year.

Yours faithfully

The Reception Team