



Reception Thames Class Curriculum Newsletter

Autumn 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had a lovely first week at school, it has been great to see how happy and excited the children are to come into school each day. We are enjoying getting to know the children and helping them settle into school. We are happy to see how independent the children are becoming at putting their things away in the morning and getting to know the routines of the day. We are beginning to see new friendships developing. They have been exploring their learning environment and getting to know the adults in the class too. We have been introducing the children to the Shire Oak principles of: being kind, being safe and being our best and we have discussed the school rules. We have also introduced our class Shire Oak Christian value of sharing.

This week the children have been given their own 'carpet spot' to sit on, this is where your child will sit when it is 'carpet time'. These spaces will be chosen because that is where we think they will be able to focus well. You may also hear the children talking about being a 'tidy up inspector', this is a tool that we use during tidy up time. If a child tries their best at tidy up time, they may be chosen to be a tidy up inspector (two are chosen during each session). Their job is to check how well everyone is tidying up and then they choose two children who will be the inspectors next time.

Reception Baseline Assessment

We are required to carry out a baseline assessment for each child entering reception class. This is a short, interactive and practical assessment of your child's early literacy, communication, language and mathematics skills. It will be carried out on a one-to-one basis by Miss Dalton over the next few weeks. More information on this can be found here: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1074327/2022_Information_for_parents_reception_baseline_assessment.pdf

At Shire Oak formative assessment has always been part of our practice to make sure we know the next steps children need to take at school. We will not be telling the children that this is an assessment, nor will it be the only source of information for us as we plan your child's learning journey. As children settle into school life, they show us more and more of what they can do, and their RBA outcomes will in no way limit our ambitions for your child.

The phonics scheme we use at Shire Oak is called FFT Success For All Phonics. We will start with short sessions on the carpet, where they will begin to learn to read and write the first

set of sounds and practise their blending (blending sounds together to make and eventually read words) and segmenting skills (breaking down words into their separate sounds and eventually writing them). There will be a meeting later this half term that will explain how we teach phonics in reception and how you can support your child with their reading and writing. I will keep you posted of the time and date for this. We will also be giving the children 'reading books' over the next few weeks. For most children these will be wordless until they know enough sounds to go home with books containing words. Please spend some time looking at and discussing these wordless books with your child. Their books will be changed once a week, on a particular day. This will be written in their reading records, which will be given out later.

We will also be focussing on one story every few weeks, so that the children get to know it thoroughly. We act it out, draw story maps of it, add actions and we may change some aspects of it too. Each week we will also focus on a poem or rhyme.

The children will be visiting the school library once a week on a Wednesday. Each week they will get to choose a book to share at home. Please return their library book each Wednesday, so they can get another one.

In maths, we teach using a mastery approach, ensuring that all children have a deep, secure, and adaptable understanding of mathematical concepts. Over the next few weeks, we will be focusing on matching, sorting and comparing amounts, using vocabulary such as; more, fewer, the same and equal. We will also be comparing size, mass and capacity and exploring pattern. Then we will focus on numbers one to five and their composition and looking at circles, triangles and shapes with four sides. We will also cover positional language and time in our learning before Christmas. Much of the maths learning that the children do takes place in the areas of provision, both indoors and out, giving it greater purpose and meaning. We also regularly use the CBeebies series 'Numberblocks' in our teaching, which the children love. There will be a maths meeting for parents later in the year.

This term's focus will be on families, feelings and what makes us special. We will also look at seasonal changes (as we do throughout the year), celebrations and exploring light and dark. Including finding out about nocturnal and hibernating animals.

Tapestry: We use this online system to record 'wow' moments and other evidence of your child's learning. We also use it for announcements and messages. If you haven't signed up to this please follow this link: <https://tinyurl.com/TapestryShireOak> You will need to activate your account. If you have signed up but have not received an email, this might be due to the activation link going to your junk file on your email. This system also allows you to upload photos or videos of your child and lets us know what they get up to at home.

Clothes or equipment. It's been great to see so many water bottles, labelled jumpers and book bags this week. As mentioned at home visits and our meetings for new parents/ carers, we want to give the children as many valuable opportunities as possible to explore their

environment and different materials (whatever the weather!). This means that they may well come home looking slightly the worse for playing in mud/ clay/ paints! Although we do give the children aprons, please remember that this is what uniforms are for. Please make sure your child has a coat with them every day as well.

We will be starting our weekly PE lessons on Tuesday, the children will not need their PE kits yet, but I will let you know when we will start changing for PE. When we do start to change, please make sure your child is dressed in clothes that they can easily change from independently, such as polo shirts rather than buttoned up shirts, also that all their PE kit is named.

Milk: Just a reminder that if your child would like milk, you need to sign them up for it. The website is: <https://www.coolmilk.com/>

How you can help

In reception, we do not give the children half-termly homework, however, they may be given the occasional challenge related to their learning. At this stage, any amount of sharing stories and developing their love of books is great. It would also be good if you could help your child to become more independent by encouraging them to dress and undress independently (this is particularly helpful when we start to change for PE). Also, for them to be able to put their own coat on and zip or button it up. Obviously, staff are always there to help children who require it.

There will be notices in the classroom window, should you want to know more about our week-by-week learning in Maths and Phonics. Otherwise, feel free to see myself or Miss Jones if you would like anything further. We are always interested in how children are getting on with their learning at home and want to work with you to keep your child safe, happy and learning well.

Thank you!

Miss Dalton



Miss Jones

