

Reception Newsletter

Spring 2016

Archibald Primary School
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Don't be Late – Be on Time – School starts at ¼ to 9.

Happy New Year

All the Reception staff would like to wish you all a Happy New Year. The children have soon settled back into the routine and were excited to talk about their Christmas holidays with their class.

The organisation of the reception classes will stay the same as at the end of the autumn term.

On Monday afternoons pupils will work with Mrs Sigsworth on the 'Dinocroc's' French programme and with Mrs Williams to do PE.

Start and End of School Arrangements

The doors are opened each morning at 8:45am and parents and carers are welcome to bring their children into class, help them hang their coat up and find their name. For Health and Safety the gates to the Reception area is locked school starts at 8.45am.

The register is taken at 8:55 am and any children arriving after this time should report to the school office.

Parents and carers are welcome to collect Reception pupils from the classroom at 3pm each afternoon.

Please wait in the Reception playground and wait for the doors to be opened at 3pm. Please do not allow your child to play on the climbing frame at home time.

Teaching and Learning in Reception

Writing

During the spring term the children will be working on writing their own full name and other things such as labels and captions.

They will also be attempting to write short sentences using their phonic skills.

Reading

Throughout our Fairytale topic the children will be enjoying an increasing range of books. When reading in class they will be encouraged to say each sound in simple words and blend them together to read it.

Towards the end of the spring term we hope that all children will begin to read words and simple sentences. *Please continue to read with your child regularly at home as this has a great impact on their confidence and reading progression.*

Phonics

We have now covered all of speed sounds 1 through Read, Write, Inc. and we are now moving onto the next set of sounds. Please continue to revisit this at home as their phonics skills are a key part in helping them to read and write.

Handwriting

During the spring term we are hoping to develop the children's handwriting skills so that they can hold a pencil effectively to form recognisable letters, most of which

are correctly formed. We are hoping to start 'Dough Disco' first thing on a morning to help the children develop their fine motor skills.

Action words

This term we will be focussing on writing the action words. Please continue to practice reading the action words with the help of the picture cues.

Numeracy

The children will be learning to count reliably with numbers from 1 to 20 and becoming more confident counting beyond 20. Our aim is for the children to place numbers 1 to 20 in order independently.

Learning Contexts

Spring Learning Contexts:
Spring 1 - Fairytales
Spring 2 - Space

Throughout each Learning Context there are a wide variety of learning opportunities, interesting things to find out, make and do. We aim to base our learning within each context around a number of questions (Learning Challenges) which we try to find the answers to. We also encourage pupils to think of their own questions and work with others to find the answers.

More on the back ➔



Lunchtime

At lunchtime the children have the same dinnertime staff every day. The children are encouraged to try a variety of foods and use their knife and fork. Please ensure that you make your child's packed lunch healthy. Outside the children have access to a variety of games with the support from the Reception Play Leader and some of the older children. The children now take part in 'Wake up shake up' at lunchtime.

First Aid

If your child has an accident at school they will be seen by a first aider and will receive a first aid slip. Your child will be given this slip at the end of the day. If you have any questions about the accident please ask the class teacher or the teaching assistant.



- Please ensure that all items of clothing are named as uniforms, especially jumpers can easily get mixed up. Each child shares a tray with someone and pupils are reminded to place their jumpers in their tray if they remove them. Please check their trays at home time.
- All packed lunch boxes should be named and placed on the trolley in the cloakroom at the start of the day. Reception pupils are responsible for collecting their own lunch box at the start of lunchtime and replacing it on the trolley after they have eaten.
- It is very important that we can get in touch with you in case of an emergency. Please ensure that we have your up to date contact details at the office.
- We use text messages to remind you of things and to share good news stories about your child and their learning. Please make sure that the school office has your up to date home and mobile number.

How can I help at home?

We ask that parents and carers support their child's learning in a number of ways:-

Talk to your child each day about what they have been doing at school, what they have learned and what they are looking forward to the next day.

Support your child with their homework tasks. Homework is usually sent home on a Friday and we ask that it is returned by the following Tuesday. Homework tasks are planned for you and your child to complete together. If you have any questions about the homework tasks set please ask your child's class teacher or TA.

Listen to your child read.

Home – School Partnership

We value a strong partnership between home and school and believe that when this partnership is strong pupils make the most of what school can offer.

Class teachers and Teaching assistants are available informally at the start and end of each day if you have any concerns or quick questions. Alternatively you may make an appointment to meet together at a mutually convenient time.

There will be an opportunity for you to come into school to share your child's achievements, look at their books and discuss their next steps. These meetings will be in the weeks beginning 29th February and 7th March 2016. Details and appointments are to follow.

Term Dates

We break up for the 1 week half term holiday on **Friday 12th February** and return to school on **Monday 22nd February**.

We break up for the 2 week Easter holidays on **Thursday 24th March** and return to school for the start of the summer term on **Monday 11th April**.

