



Reception Newsletter

November 2020



Dear Families

Welcome back! We hope you have had a relaxing half term. Please find below some home-school information regarding what to expect over the next few months in Moles and Hedgehogs.

Drop Off and Collection

A huge thank you to you all for observing the social distancing reminders we have out the front of the school. We appreciate it is incredibly difficult when you have something to say/pass over to the staff, but we will always receive messages through the office; whether by email or in person. Thank you from us all.

Winter Wear

With the winter months approaching, please ensure your child has a suitable coat and pair of welly boots in school. The children still have access to our outdoors classroom in most weathers, but will only be allowed on the field at lunch times if they have welly boots. Thank you.

Please ensure all items of your child's school uniform; including coats, hats, scarves, gloves etc. are labelled, or at least initialled. It is incredibly difficult for us to successfully return lost items if they are not named.

Snack and Water

All children have access to a choice of fruit and vegetables at our snack bar between 9.30-11am every day, but it is up to them to decide if and when they are hungry at some point in the morning. Milk is also available for those children who have been signed up via coolmilk online. This continues to be free for children under 5. Children who don't have milk are encouraged to drink from their water bottle, which is in a basket next to the snack bar. Whilst children are not monitored with how much they drink each day, there are set times every day where reminders are given. Children can access their water bottle at any time - this is not restricted.

Phonics for Reading & Writing

All children are now participating in our daily phonics session. This includes continuing to learn all of the letter sounds and how to 'blend' these sounds to read simple words, such as "m-a-p = map" or "h-a-t = hat". Your child has also been taught to recognise some "tricky words" i.e the, was, to etc. These are words the children are taught cannot be sounded out, and are words we just have to learn by sight. Please continue to practise these skills together when reading at home.

Alongside the teaching of reading in phonics, the children are also taught how to segment (spell) simple words using their sounds such as "dog = d-o-g". The children are also accessing a weekly handwriting session to support their pencil control and the correct orientation of letters.

PE

For the remainder of this term, Reception classes will be having two PE sessions a week. Due to timetable changes, these days are now different for Hedgehogs and Moles. Please ensure your child's PE kit is returned to school as soon as possible. PE backpacks will remain on your child's peg until the end of term. From week beginning 9th November...

- **Hedgehogs** will do PE on a Monday and Wednesday morning.
- **Moles** will do PE on a Tuesday and Thursday morning.

Toys

Please remind your child that toys from home should remain at home. On a number of occasions, toys are appearing in school and quickly become lost. This causes the children to then become upset. Thank you for supporting us with this.

Green Face & Sparkly Star

We have a green smiley face displayed in each classroom as means of reinforcing rules, expectations and classroom behaviour. As we remind the children of this system this week, you may find them talking about their peg being on or off the smiley face or on a sparkly star, so we felt it important to share this procedure with you.

Each child has their name written on a wooden peg. This is attached to each class' green smiley face and demonstrates children following our classroom rules and keeping their teachers happy! The majority of children will remain on the green face each day. The children's pegs can move on and off the face depending on whether a conversation and/or apology is needed with staff or other children. Where children demonstrate exceptional behaviour; that that makes their teachers proud, they may have their peg moved up to the sparkly star. These names remain on the sparkly star for the whole week and are shared with Mrs Money on a Friday. This behaviour is then celebrated and children are rewarded with a Headteachers sticker.

The children have been told that 'mistakes are our friends' and occasionally there may be a 'whoops' during play. It is important to note that at the age of four and five, the vast majority of incidents during play are managed through discussion and finding a solution to the problem together.

Tapestry

Your child's personal learning journal is now live on Tapestry and can be accessed by you securely from home. We warmly encourage you to 'check in' regularly to see your child's progress in learning and events in school that we have uploaded to share with you. Families are also welcome to add their own photos, videos or notes for the teachers to respond to. If you have any difficulties with the Tapestry system, please let your class teacher know or stop at the office window following drop off and ask Mrs Cable for any technical support.

Topic Learning

This half term we will be learning about Toys through our "The Magic Toybox" theme. We will be taking lead from the children and their interests. We anticipate weekly themes could include teddy bears, dinosaurs, superheroes, vehicles etc.

Peek at the Week

Our new "Peek at the Week" planner will be sent home to Reception families every Friday afternoon and offers parents the chance to engage in our learning themes and continue with any links at home should you wish. We have also responded to feedback at parents' evenings where some children are not as willing to talk about their school day when they get home. We hope "Peek at the Week" will provide conversation starters and allow parents more of an insight into what your child is learning at school each week.

A further newsletter will follow in a few weeks' time outlining specific events and activities for Christmas in more detail. We hope that you all enjoy another successful and happy half term with us in Reception.

Kind Regards

Miss Randles, Miss Hardy-Trodd and the Reception Team

