



Uffculme Primary School

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AUTUMN 2023 CLASS NEWSLETTER

September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers of children in Reception,

We hope you all had an excellent Summer Holiday with your family and friends. We have written this newsletter to give you further information on the expectations and routines in Reception this half term.

In Reception this year, Mrs Sharpe will be teaching, with Mrs Blake supporting, to provide your child with a safe, nurturing learning environment. We pride ourselves on having an **open-door policy**, so if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me. Similarly, if I am ever not available, please feel free to discuss any concerns with Mrs Blake as she will be more than happy to help.



Mrs Sharpe



Mrs Blake

We will also have Miss Pearson working with us in the mornings and Mrs Kerslake in the afternoons.



Miss Pearson



Mrs Kerslake

We know that we have only just started school, but we are so impressed with how well your children have come into their new class. It can be very tiring for children as they are experiencing so many new rules and routines, but they are all doing brilliantly. We are all really looking forward to the year ahead.

We have included a list of the curriculum areas of learning and a brief explanation of what we will be covering during each area in the table below. This is a flexible plan and highlights the main focuses for this half term. Our children lead learning and things will change in response to their interests and needs.


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Our current topic for this half term is 'Our World and the seasons'. We are learning:

Area of learning	What we hope to find out and learn
Communication and Language	Developing listening skills and behaviours. Engaging in story times and non-fiction books by following along and joining in. Developing talking about own experiences and learning new vocabulary. Thinking about asking and answering questions and talking in full sentences. Hearing and saying social phrases e.g. 'Good morning', 'Can I help you?'
Personal, Social and Emotional Development	Transitioning into school and learning the school routines. Getting to know our teachers and the children in our class. Becoming more independent with putting away belongings, dressing and toileting. Expressing our own feelings and developing confidence to try new activities. Practising turn taking and sharing resources. Making healthy choices and learning how to care for ourselves e.g. washing hands, drinking water and eating healthily.
Physical Development	Developing our gross motor skills including balancing, throwing and catching. Changing direction with increasing speed and control. Developing good posture and muscle strength. Developing our fine motor skills including using cutlery, using tweezers to pick up small objects, practising doing zips and buttons, threading and weaving and developing finger strength in our playdough disco sessions. Practising using scissors to cut straight and curved lines and using a paintbrush effectively. Developing a tripod pencil grip to draw pictures, write our names and form letters correctly.
PE	This term we will be looking at improving our agility, coordination and balance. We will be learning some invasion games, such as football, netball, basketball and others, to help us to improve this.
Literacy – Key texts	A Stroll Through The Seasons by Kay Barnham Leaf Man by Lois Ehlert Welcome to our World by Moira Butterfield Supertato by Sue Hendra Oliver's Vegetables by Vivian French Poetry - I'm a little pumpkin 
Literacy	Exploring mark making and creating pictures and practising name writing. Practising to verbally say full sentences and thinking about what others may say e.g. characters from stories. Using positional language e.g. 'I want to go over the bridge.' Re-telling key text stories using new vocabulary. Talking about new information that we have found out and developing our use of descriptive language. Practising correct letter formation.
Literacy – phonics (following Little Wandle Phonics)	Tuning into sounds and recognising rhyme and alliteration. Learning our first letter sounds and recognising the initial sounds in words (please see the phonics programme below for more information). Beginning to use correct letter formation for the letters and sounds that we learn. Beginning to blend sounds together to read small cvc words.

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Mathematics (NCETM)	Recognition, counting, composition and comparison of numbers to 5. Counting forwards to 10. Using the language of measure in everyday play – comparing sizes of length and height, weight and capacity. Identifying, continuing and making our own simple repeated patterns. Developing spatial awareness and vocabulary e.g. using and demonstrating positional language such as ‘under, over, next to’ etc. Categorising and sorting objects, resources and natural materials.
Understanding the World	Exploring our school and the environment. Thinking about our family and friends and what we like to eat, play with and how this might be different from what other people like. Learn about the seasons and changes in Autumn. Investigating autumn treasures such as leaves, acorns and conkers. Plant bulbs and learn about how they grow. Finding out about vegetables, planting and harvest.
RE	Being special and where do we belong – thinking about what makes us special and who is special to us. How some Christians welcome new-born children with baptism. Hinduism and how they celebrate the bond between brothers and sisters.
Computing	Learning about the different parts of the computer and how to use these sensibly. Using our school computer painting programme and learning how to select and paint using the computer mouse. Taking photos of our creations and autumn treasures. Exploring and playing with programmable toys – Beebots.
Expressive Arts and Design	Experimenting and building models. Exploring sculpture with playdough. Exploring colour and paint with different consistencies. Creating patterns with paint and natural objects. Working safely with a range of tools such as scissors, hole-punches, threading and printing. Working from our imagination to express ideas and feelings. Being imaginative and playing with friends, building up a storyline together e.g. in the home area and farm shop role-play areas.
Music	We are going to explore emotions and feelings using the voice and facial expressions. We will invent new verses to songs and explore sounds on classroom instruments.

HOMEWORK IN RECEPTION

Reading and phonics

At Uffculme Primary School, we place a huge importance upon reading and the joy of sharing books with each other. The children enjoy having lots of stories everyday in class and there is a wide selection of books in the classroom which the children can choose from. The school library is an excellent resource where children can look for books linked to current themes and topics.

Every child begins school with different reading experiences, and it is a really exciting time when the children start to read and write. Our aim in the first few weeks is to establish your child’s ‘next steps’ to support their reading development. We will also be starting our Little Wandle phonics lessons. Below is a brief outline of the phonics



programme that we will be focusing on this half-term. More information about early reading and phonics and how you can support this at home, will follow in the next few weeks.

Phonics programme

This programme shows the progression of GPC’s (grapheme-phoneme-correspondence) and tricky words that we will teach over the first half-term in Reception. All of the graphemes taught are practised in words, sentences, and later on, in fully decodable reading books. Children review and revise GPC’s and words, daily, weekly and across terms and years, in order to move this knowledge into their long-term memory.

Autumn Term - Phase 2 graphemes (part 1)	Autumn Term - Phase 2 Tricky words (part 1)
s a t p i n m d g o c k c k e u r h b f l	is l the

Wow Moments



Over the next few weeks, we will also put some ‘Wow Moment’ slips into your child’s bookbag. You can use these to let us know about your child’s achievements and learning out of school. It might be for example that your child can now put on their coat independently or that you visited a local park recently that they really enjoyed. We love to hear about all of the children’s achievements so please do write these ‘Wow moments’ on the slips provided and put them into your child’s bookbag. We will then share and celebrate these moments together as a class.

Water bottles and snack

Please can you send a water bottle into school every day for your child. It is really important that they have access to water throughout the day and a bottle in the classroom ensures that water is readily available (no squash or juice please). Please label the bottle with your child’s name. Your child will be provided with a piece of fruit or vegetable every day for snack but if your child would like to bring in their own snack instead, they can bring in a piece of fruit or veg from home.

PE and Music

PE lessons will be taken by Mr Carpanini and will be on a Thursday and Friday, starting on Thursday 21st September. Children will need to have their PE kit in school on these days. A reminder that your child needs: black shorts, red polo-shirt and daps. When the weather is colder, they may need black tracksuit bottoms. Please ensure that all PE kit is clearly labelled and carried in a named bag. For health and safety reasons, jewellery must be removed for P.E; this includes earrings.



Mrs Pethick will be teaching the children Music on Wednesdays. Both Mr Carpanini and Mrs Pethick are experienced teachers and are looking forward to teaching the children.



Mr Carpanini



Mrs Pethick

Thank you for your help and support over the term ahead. It really promises to be a wonderful year where your child will grow in confidence and independence.

With very best wishes,

Mrs R Sharpe

Reception Teacher

Dates for your diary:

SEPTEMBER		
Tuesday 5 th		Children to start (apart from Reception children)
Tues 5 th - Thurs 7 th		Home visits to new children
Fri 8 th		Part time attendance for EYFS children to start
Friday 15 th		First full day for Reception children
Tuesday 26 th		Open Classrooms
Friday 29 th		Non-Pupil Inset Day
OCTOBER		
Wednesday 4 th	2:00pm	Harvest Festival (Church) - Food donations to CHAT
Wednesday 18 th	3:40pm	Parent Consultation Evenings (incl. SENDCO meetings)
Thursday 19 th	3:40pm	Parent Consultation Evenings
Monday 30 th	All day	Non-Pupil Day Trust-Wide Day

