



Uffculme Primary School

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11th September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to Reception

Thank you for your support with helping the children settle in so well and for bearing with us with the staggered drop-off and collection times. 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 really looking forward to an exciting first term in Reception and using our outdoor area which we have re-vamped over the Summer. Our current topics for the Autumn Term are: **'It's me!', 'Autumn adventures' and 'Space'**.

This is a flexible plan and highlights the main focuses for the term. Our children lead learning and things will change in response to their interests and needs.

Area of learning	What we will be doing	How you can support learning at home
Communication, language and literacy	We will be focusing on developing our speaking and listening skills and following instructions. We will be learning and using letter sounds in our reading and writing and developing our mark-making skills. Learning around the following key texts: Handa's Surprise by Eileen Browne Leaf man by Lois Ehlert. Owl Babies by Martin Waddell. The Tale of the Little Red Hen. The Gruffalo by Julia Donaldson. Whatever Next! By Jill Murphy Aliens love underpants by Claire Freedman	Enjoy sharing stories together and talking about the characters. What did you like about that story? Complete letters and sounds homework together.
Personal, social and emotional development	Becoming familiar with our school environment and routines. Focusing on the Golden rules animal stories. Making friendships and developing confidence to talk to others. Managing feelings and behaviour.	Enjoy talking to your child about what they have been doing at school and how they are feeling.
Physical development	A range of gross and fine motor activities to develop children's physical skills. Developing our independence and self-care skills. Our theme in PE this term is 'Invasion games'.	Encourage your child to be independent and e.g put on their own coat, tidy away after themselves and encourage good health and hygiene.
Maths	Developing our number skills through counting, recognising numbers and developing our knowledge of early place value through fun and practical maths activities.	Spotting numbers around you when out and about e.g numbers on doors and counting objects e.g. leaves.

	Using positional language and exploring and comparing items by length, height, weight and capacity. Exploring 2D shapes and patterns.	Talk about and use everyday words to describe position e.g. 'behind' or 'next to'.
Understanding the world	Exploring our school and thinking about what makes us special. Looking at the changes in our environment from Summer to Autumn and then to Winter. Exploring our woodland in the school grounds. Fireworks and Bonfire safety. Light, dark and Space. Special times and traditions (e.g. Bonfire night, Diwali, Christmas) Using computers safely and using our DB learning platform.	Talking about the seasons and the changes that we see. Go on an Autumn/Winter walk and see what you can find. You could take photos or draw a picture of what you find and post it on our DB learning platform.
Expressive arts and design	Building with sticks, mud and exploring textures. Exploring sounds of the woods and Autumn/Winter. Autumn art and exploring colour and patterns. Gruffalo paintings and printing. Salt dough/bread Home area and Farm shop role-play. Charanga music	Talking about different sounds that you hear – are they loud or soft? What words would you use to describe them? Make patterns/pictures with natural materials e.g. sticks, acorns, leaves, flowers.

Teachers and Teaching Assistants

Mrs Sharpe is the Reception class teacher and Mrs Tate is our teaching assistant.

Mr Carpanini will be taking the children for 2 PE lessons a week which will be every Monday and Friday once the children are at school full time. Please make sure children have a named PE kit in school for this.

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



Mrs Pethick



Mr Carpanini

Water bottles and snack reminders

Please ensure that your child brings to school a clearly named water bottle every day. Snack is provided daily but if your child wants to bring in their own then this needs to be a piece of fruit or vegetable only.

Reading and homework

At Uffculme Primary School we place a huge importance upon reading and the joy of sharing books with each other. Reading is used across all areas of the school curriculum beginning in Reception. There is a wide selection of books in the classroom and we love to take our reading outdoors. 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 next few weeks is to establish your child's 'next steps' to support their reading development. We have a large variety of books to support each child on their learning journey. Over the next few weeks, all children will bring home a picture book to share and build up a story with you. Children will then gradually move onto books with simple words as we feel appropriate for your child. When your child receives a school reading book and record, we would like you to read with them at least three times a week and then record each read clearly in the reading record.

Once the children have settled well into school, they will also receive 'Letters and Sounds' homework. This will be based on the phonics teaching in class. We use the 'Letters and Sounds' and 'Jolly Phonics' programmes and once the children are settled, we will give further information on how we teach early reading and writing and how you can support this at home.

Our full Reception Curriculum overview and timetable can be located on the website.

We really hope that your child will enjoy their first term at school and we look forward to watching each child progress throughout the term. If you have any questions or concerns about your child and their learning, then please feel free to talk to us. School drop-off and pick up times are very busy and to help meet the Covid guidelines, we are asking you to email or phone the school office and we will get back to you.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Sharpe,

Reception class Teacher

