



Reception Curriculum Information Spring Term 2018

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

The children have become happy and autonomous learners over the first part of the academic year. They have formed friendships and have begun to build up effective relationships with their peers.

We encourage children to build up effective relationships with their peers across all three classes and explore the inside and outside learning spaces whilst reinforcing the Merryhills code.

The stories that we read over the Autumn Term had a strong emphasis on social and emotional development in order to support the children's social and emotional development. We now focusing on encouraging the value of confidence and determination and highlighting the Characteristics of Learning (detailed in the EYFS) in our independent play and learning.

Communication and Language

All 7 areas are developed across the entire year but Communication and Language is an area that is vital for effective development in other areas. We have a strong and constant emphasis on the development of this area in order to consistently develop children's language skills, understanding and encourage them to develop their concentration skills.

We use visual aids wherever possible to bring to life what an adult is saying. We have a 'word of the week' which is linked to the 'book of the week' (and is usually a very unusual word!). We are also fortunate enough to have very experienced Nursery Nurses, who run Communication and Language groups on a weekly basis. This gives children the opportunity to develop their language skills in a small, safe and familiar group.

Physical Development

Both fine (small movements) and gross (large movements) motor skills are encouraged both inside and outside. This is encouraged through a variety of play-based activities which ensure good muscle development, core stability and balance.

We also run an intervention group called Tiger Cubs which encourages children to develop their fine motor skills through a range of exciting and stage appropriate activities.

In the second part of the Autumn Term, we began teaching P.E. which has proven extremely popular with the children! Over the next term, we will be focusing on ball skills, balance and co-ordination and gymnastics.

Literacy

Each week we link our learning to a 'book of the week' (alongside children's interests). This encourages the children to develop a love for literature by introducing them to a wide and varied selection of books. Throughout lessons, children are exposed to lots of modelled writing and are encouraged to attempt writing for different purposes.

We have taught all the phonemes (sounds) and their corresponding graphemes (letters) as stated in Letters and Sounds Phase 2 as well as the 8 phonemes and graphemes in Letters and Sounds phase 3. This means the children have been exposed to enough teaching and learning to be able to attempt

to write for different purposes. They have also been exposed to enough teaching learning in order to attempt to write cvc words such as 'mop' or 'cat' and short captions such as, 'The duck can quack'.

The children have been taught the following tricky words which can now be incorporated into their reading and writing: I, to, the, go, no, into, he, she, are, was.

Mathematics

Our focus this term in Mathematics is number. We are learning how to add and subtract one and two digit numbers using various techniques such as using number lines, using practical objects, touching fingers on noses. We will then move on to learning how to collect data and record it in a pictograph.

We are focusing on patterns in number using a number square e.g. 10, 20, 30 etc. or 10,11, 12 etc. Please talk to a member of staff if you would like support with using a number square.

We will be exploring volume and capacity and then towards the end of the half term, we will use all of the skills that we have learnt to solve mathematical problems.

Understanding the World

Wherever possible, we bring learning to life. This ensures that children learn through first-hand experience and encourages children to explore and investigate in kinaesthetic and sensory ways.

We will be going on our termly walk to Lonsdale Drive open space to look at the changes in season and (hopefully) spot some signs of spring!

As part of our learning on Traditional Tales, we be putting many parts of the stories into context – watch out for our 'Merryhills Reception Bake Off!'

Expressive Art and Design

Creativity is key in the Foundation Stage and this term, we will be encouraging children to explore imaginative play, creating imaginary games from ordinary house hold items.

Each classroom has a role play area set up so that children can engage in imaginative play which supports their emotional development and encourages the children to take on a new persona. We encourage the children to use the open-ended resources available. Some of the resources we have are boxes, large fabric, wood and various natural resources in our mud kitchen to encourage imaginative play.

Class Fund

As you know, the learning in Reception is very hands-on and kinaesthetic. This includes activities such as play dough, cooking, tactile activities such as corn flour, shaving foam and many, many more!

For this reason, we ask for a voluntary contribution of either:

£1 per week

£5 per half term

£10 per term

Please hand your contribution to a member of the Reception Team. Your contributions are gratefully received!

Class Friend

Each Class has their own class friend, who is awarded to a child who has consistently demonstrated the Merryhills values that week. They will then be able to take 'bear' home for the weekend.

Pear Class – Pear Bear

Cherry Class – Cherry Bear

Apple Class – Apple Bear

Please keep a written account of your weekend with your class friend in their 'weekend diary' and add any photographs, leaflets, or other memorabilia that you may have. The 'weekend diary' will then be shared with the rest of the class during the following week so **please ensure that the class friend is returned to school by Monday!**

A few things to note...

- Please ensure that **all** items of clothing are named! This includes P.E. shoes, and all pieces of uniform, including trousers, skirts and tights.
- We are part of the 'Healthy Schools' scheme which means we promote healthy eating. Please ensure that if your child has a packed lunch, the food is healthy and some fruit or vegetables are included in their meal.
- If you would like to speak with your child's teacher at the end of the day, **please wait until all the children have been dismissed** as the safety of the children is paramount.

Please feel free to come in and discuss any queries that you may have at the end of the school day. We look forward to an exciting 2018!

Kind regards,

The Reception Team