

Reception Newsletter

October 18th, 2023



Dear Reception families,

In this Newsletter, you will find the following information:

- Review of our first half term
- Black History Month and suitcases
- 9am school gate
- School Grid
- Named items / lost property
- School Spider - £5 fund
- PE changing into kit
- Nativity Dates

This half term...



We are almost at the end of our first half term together in Reception! The last few weeks have certainly flown by and it feels like our collective small feet haven't touched the ground. As you know, we try to capture some of Reception life via our Tapestry learning journal. A steady stream of home observations, published by families, are being shared each week. We love receiving home broadcasts and will always type a return message!

We are now well underway with our Essential Letters and Sounds phonics programme. Thank you for your commitment to the reading schedule and recording your thoughts and observations of your child's home reading experience. We have now added a useful 'crib sheet' guide to our agreed script (how to write the letters of the alphabet) to your reading diaries, for reference.

Black History Month



As part of our Black History Month exploration, the children have been reading Floella Benjamin's book, 'Coming to England'. Floella's story has provoked and inspired a wider conversation around themes such as discrimination, belonging and courage. We've held these discussions in an age-appropriate way and used the language of Rights to help frame our thinking especially through the lens of Article 2 - non discrimination. This, in turn has led to wider conversations around difference and calling out stereotypes.

We are taking inspiration from Floella's story to create our own Reception installation of artwork and photography to be shared as part of the whole-school BHM exhibition.

For part of the display, we are in need of some suitcases, preferably of a vintage style. If you have one and can donate, we would really appreciate it. Thank you.

9am - locking of the school gate



Just recently, you may have heard a more insistent ring of the bell at drop-off. To safeguard all of our children, the gate must be locked at 9am which in turn means that late arrivals (even by a minute or two!) will need to enter via the school office. There cannot be any compromise on

safety and we hope you understand and support our 'strictness' with this.

School Grid



Your help with preordering lunches has been warmly received by all staff. Many thanks for your support with this. It really does help us to ensure clarity and ease of organisation for our catering team. Please note that you can add information relating to dietary needs via the app at home.

Lost property - named items of clothing, please!



Our lost property pile is growing. We will place some large tables outside, next Thursday in order for you to have a look through and claim any missing items. All items of school uniform and kit need to be named as it is very difficult (sometimes impossible!) to reunite anonymous uniform with it's wearer.

£5 fund - school spider



We really appreciate your voluntary enrichment fund contributions! As an example of how we use this fund, next week, we will purchase a variety of tropical fruits for a taste-testing session, inspired by Floella's book. To make the process of donating ££ more seamless, a £5 item will now be added to School Spider each half term. Thank you.

PE kit - half term request



Getting changed into PE is a fairly new experience for all of our children and in order to support speed and confidence, any home practice would be fabulous and very helpful! Zipping, putting on gloves and boots might also be a useful practice workout too, especially as the weather is changing and we will be layering up to keep warm.



Nativity Dates

We are pleased to announce our class Nativity dates! Each show will start at 9:30am and last for approximately 20 minutes.

Monday 4th Dec - RH
Tuesday 5th Dec - RS
Wednesday 6th Dec - RO
Thursday 7th Dec - RB
Friday 8th Dec - RSH

We will write to you with more details of part choices and costume requirements at the beginning of next half term.



Have a wonderful half-term break!

On behalf of all our teachers and teaching assistants in Reception,
Hilary Silva
Reception Lead

