



Sheen Mount Primary School

Curriculum Information Bulletin for Reception – Autumn Term 2023

Welcome to the first term at Sheen Mount! The children have all settled in well and are having fun exploring and learning with their new friends. We have put together a few ideas and suggestions to help you with your child's first term at school and explain some of the focuses for the Autumn Term.

Understanding the world

Our first topic is 'All about me'. We will be finding out about the children in the class and learning each other's names. We are busy establishing our identity as a class and creating a sense of belonging. As a part of helping the children get to know themselves and each other better, we will be celebrating our similarities and differences. As a part of this topic, we will also explore our local geography through observations and maps. The children will also have the chance to express themselves artistically using a range of tools to create self-portraits. Additionally, we will be looking at how we celebrate various events at home and how people in different cultures celebrate. This will culminate in our Christmas festivities. We will also observe the signs of autumn and winter and compare these seasonal changes.

Phonics

Throughout the year, starting in the first half term, we will be following the Little Wandle phonics scheme. We aim to introduce approximately 4 sounds each week and will initially work through the phase 2 sounds. We will explain more about this scheme and our approach to teaching during the literacy evening on Thursday 2nd November at 7pm and we will share more information in the next few weeks.

Maths

We will begin our maths lessons by looking at matching, sorting and ordering. This is a precursor to understanding the abstract concept of numbers. You could help your child by finding matching objects, ordering items according to size, shape or colour and comparing the length, mass and capacity of everyday objects. We will then introduce the children to the numbers 0-5. It is important that the children have a deep understanding of number, so they are able to build on this foundation. We will be beginning to understand the relationship between number and quantity, including notions of cardinality and ordinality and we will be developing the children's understanding of different representations of number e.g. when shown on a dice or in two groups.

PE

Our PE lessons with Mr Brown take place on Monday afternoons and our indoor PE sessions, with the class teacher, take place on Friday morning.

Children should arrive at school on Monday and Friday wearing trainers.

When your child receives their colour team shirt, then we expect the children to arrive in the following PE uniform.

PE Kit

- black PE shorts
- colour team t-shirt
- sensible sports trainers
- in winter pupils may wear dark coloured tracksuit bottoms (during the colder weather) and a Sheen Mount (or other dark coloured) hoodie

PLEASE LABEL ALL ITEMS OF CLOTHING, INCLUDING UNDERWEAR AND SHOES.

Ways to support your child's learning at home

Writing

- Encourage your child to paint, colour and draw on a large and small scale. Use a wide variety of mark makers e.g. wax crayons, felt tips, floor chinks, sticks in the mud and sand pit etc. It is particularly important when using pencils and felt tips that you help your child hold the pencil correctly, using the tripod grip.
- Helping your child to write their name is invaluable. Begin by tracing, then copying and finally writing from memory. Remember - capital letters only at the beginning of the name and lower case letters for the rest.
- From Monday 2nd October, to help you keep track of the sounds we are introducing, we will upload a 'sound sheet' onto Google Classroom on the day that the sound has been taught.
- You could support phonics learning by reviewing the 'sound sheet' on Google Classroom, listening for the sounds in words and finding the letters in books, on cereal packets, signs etc. Please remember to use the sound the letter makes and **not** its alphabet name at this stage.
- To help you ensure you are articulating the sound as we have taught the children please watch the following video clip: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ZtjFlvA fs>
- Do not panic if your child does not remember the sounds immediately – we will be re-visiting the sounds continually over the year to embed, consolidate and extend as appropriate.
- Please use the Phonics and Early Reading section of the school website and this link for further phonics information:
<https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents/>



Reading

- In Reception, we are developing basic reading skills. You could sometimes use finger pointing when you read to your child and show them how the words flow from one line to the next. You could use books as a focus for games e.g. 'I Spy' from the pictures, finding words on the page that begin with "c" for example.
- Children will bring home a sharing picture book (chosen from our class library) for you to read. Please make sure that books are returned so that a new one can be issued.
- Please remember to keep all books in your child's book bag.
- We will be issuing yellow reading records to the children in a few weeks. These records can be used for commenting when you have read with your child. The comment will help us get feedback with regards to your child's reading.
- We will also send books home, that work alongside our phonics scheme, for your child to read. We will provide you with more information about this closer to the time. We will also discuss this at the literacy evening.

Maths

- Encourage your child to look for matching items, sort items according to observable characteristics and create patterns with everyday objects.
- You could help by counting objects, looking at how a number is made up e.g. 2 red counters and 2 blue counters is the same as 4, any form of counting forwards and backwards, recognising numbers in the environment, using the pages of a book to talk about what numbers come before or after etc.

To help with general independence

- Can your child put on, take off and turn their coat/ jumper the correct way round, on their own?
- Can your child do up their coat on their own?
- Can your child take off, put on and attempt to fasten their shoes?
- Can your child hold a knife and fork correctly? Can they attempt to use their knife and fork to cut their food and eat it? - We discourage the children from using their fingers and spoons to eat their main course.

- Can your child tidy their toys and equipment away when they have finished using it? “You choose it, you use it and you put it away”
- Please help your child to use the toilet independently – can they wipe themselves, flush the toilet and wash their hands with soap? (Inevitably, accidents happen and rest assured that we are well prepared with changes of clothes etc. should they be needed). If your child is prone to having accidents, it would be helpful if you could send in a change of clothes to keep at school.

What should the children bring with them?

- We are participating in the government Free Fruit for Schools scheme and therefore we ask that you do not provide your child with any additional snack.
- Water bottles will be sent home to be washed every Friday. Please remember to bring these **back every Monday** and check that your child’s **name** is still visible on the lid and the bottle.
- We will go outside in all weathers, so please remember to bring a named, warm, waterproof coat (that you are happy to get muddy) **EVERY DAY**.

Other useful information

- Please note that children (and their siblings) should not use the climbing frames or any school equipment before or after school time. We are not covered for insurance if a member of staff is not in attendance. It is school policy that children should leave the school grounds as soon as possible, at the end of their school day.
- Please remember to send a message to the office if someone different is collecting your child. It is necessary for you to give us your written consent.
- Please remember that no jewellery or nail varnish is permitted and children with longer hair should have it tied back at all times.
- We ask that children do not bring in any additional items, such as soft toys.

Diary dates

- Literacy Evening – Thursday 2nd November– This is a very informative evening where we share lots of useful information about how you can support your children with fine motor skills, reading and writing. We will send you more information closer to the time as to how this will run this year.
- Individual and sibling photographs- Friday 3rd November
- Sharing our learning afternoon-Friday 3rd November
- Parent consultation meetings – W/B 6th November
- Walk to Sheen Common –towards the end of this half term, date to be confirmed soon (*for this event we will be requesting parent helpers; parents will be required to have a DBS check – please speak to the school office to arrange this, if you wish to help*)

We hope you find this a useful overview of the activities we will be doing this term and some simple and valuable ways in which you can help at home. Please remember that your child is working very hard at school and that these ideas are not designed as formal homework. Please do not hesitate to talk to any member of the Reception class team about any queries or concerns that you or your child might have.

Kind regards,

Mrs Bakrania-Ashton, Mrs Jeffery, Mrs Kennedy, Mrs Bojkovic, and Mrs Hayes (Class Teachers)

Mrs Hartland, Mrs McCabe and Mrs Marano (Dormice Support Staff)

Mrs Shah, Mrs Crabb and Mrs Marano (Squirrels Support Staff) Mrs Douglas (Rabbits Support Staff)