

Welcome to Reception—Autumn Term 2024

Welcome!

On behalf of the Reception team, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome both you and your child to the Twiss Green Community Primary School family! We are really looking forward to getting to know your little treasures and finding out all about what makes them the special people that they are!

We have lots of exciting learning opportunities planned to cover all curriculum areas and information about this can be found overleaf. Your child's first year at school is so unbelievably special as they begin to learn to read and write and develop so much new language.

I am a full-time class teacher and will therefore be teaching in Reception every day, except for Tuesday afternoons, this is when Mrs Bishop will be covering my PPA time to plan each of our exciting lessons for the week to follow! We have a fantastic team of adults who will support the children's learning in Reception, but the adults who will spend each day in class with your children are myself and Mrs Bishop. This year we are also lucky enough to be joined by Mrs Briggs and Mrs Hoolihan who will be supporting us too.

I realise that there is lots of information in this letter and that many of you may have further questions, or matters you wish to discuss. I am always happy to speak to parents - feel free to make an appointment if you need to, or if it's a quick query you will be able to catch me before or after school most days!

Snack

Children are provided with a piece of fruit or vegetable each day as part of their snack. We also provide children with the option of a carton of milk (this will begin next week once delivered to school).

Homework

The learning that takes place in Reception forms a huge part of the foundation to your child's school life and education. To prepare children and provide them with the best possible start, it is important that we encourage children to be as independent as possible both at home and school. This supports children to build important problem solving skills that are vital to being an independent learner. In Reception, your child will receive some homework each week which will include things such as reading, phonics, maths and/or handwriting . Homework will be sent home on Friday's and is to be returned to school by the following Thursday, so that it can be marked and new homework can be added to your child's folder.

Play

Each day your child is likely to arrive home from school and tell you that they have done lots of playing. Play is a key part of the Reception curriculum and a key part of how our youngest pupils learn. Your child will be 'playing' whilst completing learning activities that they don't even realise they are doing. The adults in Reception work hard to develop meaningful interactions with the children to continuously challenge and move their learning on. Our Reception classroom has challenges added weekly and daily into the continuous provision in order to ensure your child is engaged and motivated.

Autumn Term—Reception will be learning about...

Literacy

Our focus text is 'The Something' by Rebecca Cobb during Autumn 1 followed by 'Little Red' by Bethan Woollvin during Autumn 2. In our Literacy lessons, we will be ...

- Continuing a rhyming string
- Hearing and writing initial sounds
- Exploring and using new vocabulary
- Sequencing stories
- Developing a love for reading
- Making predictions
- Beginning to write short CVC words (consonant, vowel, consonant e.g. pig)
- Comparing and contrasting stories and their settings

Reading & Phonics

At Twiss Green we follow a phonics scheme called Little Wandle. Our first half term will begin by teaching children a letter, the sound that it makes, its letter name and how to correctly form/write it. Your child will then be taught to blend sounds together to read short, decodable words.

To support your child on their reading journey, your child will first be sent home a reading book with no words—this is to support their language development and to discuss illustrations and develop imaginative story telling skills. Once your child is able to blend confidently, they will be allocated a reading book with words that is matched to their phonetic reading ability. Little Wandle is a well-developed scheme approved by the Department for Education (DFE) which states that *'it is crucial that children are able to read their reading book with at least 90% accuracy. If children have an accuracy rate below 90%, then they do not have enough fluency in reading the GPCs and words at the level they were tested. This could be a barrier to progress and affect the child's confidence.'* For this reason, the book that is sent home with your child is carefully matched to their assessment level and may seem simple to begin with, however this is intentional and will support your child on their reading journey. **A new reading book will be sent home each Friday and must be returned to school the following Thursday** in order to be collected for reallocation the next day. In order to keep a strong supply of reading books, there may be a charge incurred if these are not returned or are damaged.

Maths

In maths, this term we will be learning about numbers 1-10. We will explore numbers by learning how to recognise and write them correctly. We will learn about their value and what they are worth.

This includes simple oral addition e.g. "3 is the same as 2 & 1 more."

Vocabulary & Equipment - We will introduce new mathematical vocabulary and equipment that will support children throughout their maths journey's across school. E.g. fives frames, tens frames and part whole models.

Shape - We will explore simple shapes, discussing their properties.

Pattern - We will continue repeating patterns e.g AB, ABB, ABC patterns.

Reading for pleasure

In addition to your child's phonetic reading book (as described in the above section), your child will be able to choose one book from our class library to take home and share with their special grown ups. This book is not decodable and is therefore NOT for your child to read independently, it is to develop reading for pleasure and a love of stories with their grown ups at home. Reading stories is key to children's language development.

Curriculum

During our first term there will be a large focus on emotional awareness, friendships and creating a safe and comfortable classroom environment for every child. Your child will develop their history, geography, science, music and art skills through afternoon lessons, play and exploration of our outdoor area.

Autumn Term—important information

Sunshine Assembly

Look out for Reception's Sunshine Assembly date on future newsletters.

What is a Sunshine Assembly?

Each year, your child's class will create an assembly/performance demonstrating all of their amazing learning done in class so far that year.

Who is it for?

Sunshine assemblies are for parents/carers to watch! Look out for your child's year group assembly and you are welcome to come along and watch them showcase their learning to the whole school and their parents/carers.

How long will it last?

Each Sunshine Assembly time varies depending on their year group, however Reception's assembly usually lasts no more than 30 minutes.

Supporting behaviour at Twiss Green

Twiss Green is a Rights Respecting school, and so, at the beginning of the school year, each class uses these rights to create a 'Class Charter' listing their agreed behaviours and expectations for their lessons.

The three R's—These 3 words are key to school's values

- Always do your best #resilience
- Be kind #relationships
- Always be considerate of others, their property and our school #respect

Celebration assembly—each Friday, children attend a celebration assembly where 3 merits per class are awarded for Excellent progress, Resilience and Relationships. If your child comes home with one of these merits, this is a wonderful achievement and celebration!

Class Dojo's—Your child will soon come home with login details for Class Dojo points. These points provide many opportunities for pupils to be rewarded for outstanding behaviour, positive attitudes to learning, excellent work and by exhibiting outstanding practice of 'The 3 Rs'. Once a child reaches 100 Dojos they get a bronze badge; 200 Dojos = silver badge, 300 Dojos = gold badge and 400 Dojos = platinum badge.

Unsung hero—Unsung Hero Award: Two children per half-term in each class will be chosen as the Unsung Heroes, and as such will be invited to Afternoon Tea with Mrs Hughes to show that their efforts and contributions are valued by their teachers and classmates. One of the Heroes is chosen by the teacher, and one is chosen by the class via a 'shoutout' window/wall. The class must state why they choose this person as an Unsung Hero. Much discussion is had prior to choosing Unsung Heroes to ensure that pupils are making choices for genuine reasons and not just based on friendships.

Wellies

Please send your child to school with a pair of wellies as soon as possible. Please ensure that these wellies have your child's name clearly written/displayed inside them. These wellies will be kept at school until the end of the year for all of our outdoor learning.

PE

Reception's PE days will be Monday and Wednesday. PE will begin WC:16.9.24—Please send your child to school in their PE kit from this week onwards on their PE days.