Year R Newsletter
Spring 2 2026

Dear Parents / Carers,
Can you believe we are already halfway through the year? Where has the time gone? The children have made a huge amount of progress so far this year and have settled fully into the routine of school. This half term, we are looking for more *"ready to read"* children and are excited to see the children becoming more independent in their self-care, writing and self-regulation.

Notices

- School uniform, coats, hats and scarves can be easily mislaid. Please ensure that your child's name is clearly marked on each item.
- We are low on socks, tights, underwear and spare clothes. If you have any spares at home that you no longer need, they will be greatly appreciated.
- If you have any 'bits and pieces' at home that you no longer need, please ask in class if we can find a use for them. Things like cardboard boxes, old books, used toys, kitchen appliances and wood.

Attendance Percentages for Reception

The first few years are probably the most important education that your child will ever receive. All the building blocks for the rest of their education are started in these early years. As an academy, we have a very strict attendance policy with every child having an attendance target of 97.5%.

Robin: 98.7% Wren: 98%

Target: 97.5%

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

During this term, the children are continuing to develop their social skills, learning about their emotions and promoting kindness in the classroom and playground. This will be achieved through the use of stories, class discussion and role play.

Mathematics

This half term, the children are continuing with daily Maths. Lessons will include the topics subtraction and addition as well as money and pattern. A big focus in our maths is to extend the children's mathematical vocabulary. The children will be learning the different terms *"equation, add, subtract, part, whole* and *total"*.

Literacy

The children have made great progress with learning their sounds and learning to blend. We will continue to work closely with the children in reading and writing activities to support their individual needs. Please enjoy the book banded reading books the children are bringing home in their reading wallets, as well as the reading books your child brings home once a week. We hope you are accessing the daily practice videos, on Seesaw.

I've learnt about creatures that used to be alive, what animals are alive now?

Expressive Arts and Design

This term, we are encouraging the children to express their creativity using various media and materials. This includes, play dough, painting, chalks, pastels, and clay. With better weather on its way, we are encouraging the children to dress up in their role play and become different characters including vets, shop keepers and farmers.

Communication and Language

We are developing the children's speech further by encouraging the children to participate in class discussions and to explain their ideas and opinions. The children will have the opportunity to develop their language skills further in our role play areas.

Understanding the World

We will be learning about different animals this half term with topics such as *Pets*, *On the farm*, *Under the sea* and *Down in the jungle*. We will be looking at different habitats and life cycles this half term, including those of minibeasts. We will continue to encourage the children to talk about the models they have made in their free play. The children will also have opportunities to use technology in the classroom, using the clever touch boards. We will be introducing the iPads in the summer term.

Physical Development

PE for both classes continues to be on a Friday. The children will be focusing on ball skills this half term.
Within our classroom provision we open the outdoor area at 9.30am to allow children to move freely and use the range of available resources. The children will be focusing on setting up equipment and resources to promote their safety awareness. Pencil grip and the correct use of scissors will continue to be a big focus for the term.

Phonics

Phonics continues to take place daily in Reception. We have nearly taught all of the 'Reception' sounds (phase 2 and 3) and therefore we will soon be focusing on consolidation and word reading. We strongly encourage all the children to read at home, sharing their book banded books with you, as well as reading for pleasure books, which develop to develop the children's every growing vocabulary. You can also access all of the Phonics Practice Videos on Seesaw.

Reception Team

Robin Class
Teacher: Mrs Carew
TA: Miss Prosper

Wren Class
Teacher: Mrs Plews
TA: Miss Beason