

Reception Autumn Newsletter 2025



Welcome to Reception!

We know there can be a lot of information to take in when your child first starts school and we wanted to update you on a few things you may need to know this term.

Phonics:



We use the SFA (Success for All) phonics programme to teach the children their letter sounds and how to blend and segment them to read and write. In the first few weeks we will be starting by listening for and distinguishing sounds, rhymes and rhyming words. Then we will be learning our sounds. Each new phoneme (sound) has a rhyme to help the children remember the sound and help them learn how to form it correctly as a grapheme (written letter). We will also begin to learn to read and spell tricky words (words that cannot be sounded out phonetically). For more information please visit the Parent Portal at <https://parents.fft.org.uk/>

Reading:

Each week we will be reading a phonic reading book in class that matches the sounds and words we are learning in our phonic lessons. This book is key to helping the children apply what they have been learning and support them to master the skills required for fluent reading. At the end of the week the children will bring this book home to share their success with you. Please listen to your child read this and also read with them as often as you can – reading daily really does make a difference.

Reading for pleasure is the key to reading success so snuggle up and get reading together. We have a Bed Time Bear to support this; each child will get a turn take the bear home and read their favourite story along with one the teacher has chosen for them to borrow. Children will be chosen at random and all children will have a turn by the end of the year.

Your child will be bringing home a reading diary to record their reading. Please use ONE page per week. Record when they have read their phonics book and listened to any stories at home. Record one entry per day for 4 days a week to earn a stamp in your child's book and a raffle ticket to be entered into the chance to win a book from our brand new book vending machine.

Remember, if you have any questions or queries at any time then please email us directly.

Mrs Murray - s.murray@pyrford.surrey.sch.uk & Mrs Freeman - m.freeman@pyrford.surrey.sch.uk

KEY INFORMATION

- Children to wear PE kit on **FRIDAYS**
- Please remove earrings on **Fridays**
- Label EVERYTHING!
- Please bring a filled water bottle daily
- Please bring a coat – we go out in nearly all weathers
- Book bags only (we do not have room for rucksacks)
- Please do not keep water bottles in book bags

See Overleaf for an overview of the curriculum this half term →



Physical Development

- We will develop our fine motor skills through targeted provision in our play.
- We will develop our pencil grip and cutting skills
- In PE we are doing gymnastics and will be balancing, rolling, jumping, transfer of weight and travelling.



Literacy

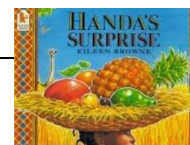
- We use a different book each week to base our learning around. These link to our topic.
- We will be expanding our vocabulary and trying to use new words in our play
- We will start to learn the first 16 individual letter sounds
- We will read books that match the sounds we have been taught to practise and consolidate our reading skills
- We will start to apply our sounds in our writing – writing phonetically plausible attempts independently.



This Term our topic is:

We are Unique!

We are learning all about ourselves and comparing our lives with the lives of children from another culture



Personal, Social and Emotional Development

- We use the PSHE SCARF resources. Our topic this half term is 'Me and My Relationships'
- We will be trying out new activities and developing our independence.
- We will be thinking about ourselves and what makes us unique
- We will be learning about and identifying our emotions

Understanding the World

- In RE we are learning about the church and what it means to be a church school
- In Science we are learning about our senses; Sight, hearing, taste, touch and smell.
- We are also learning about the season Autumn and looking at the changes in the season
- In Humanities we are learning about Africa and comparing the culture and lifestyle with our own
- We will be learning about the life of Rosa Parks during Black History Month.

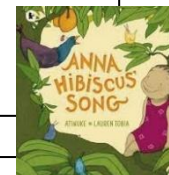
Expressive Arts and Design

- We are making self portraits using a variety of mediums, paying careful attention to our unique features
In Music we are exploring sound



Communication and Language

- We will be learning rhymes and songs
- We will be listening out for and identifying rhyming words
- We will be learning stories that have repeating refrains that we can join in with.
- We will practise retelling stories using picture prompts to expand our vocabulary and sequencing skills.
- We will identify 'interesting' language when reading stories and try to use this in our role play and retelling.



Maths

We use 'White Rose Maths' alongside resources from NCTEM 'Numberblocks'

This term we will cover:

- Concept, composition and comparison of numbers to 4
- Sorting items into groups
- Comparing items from groups
- Making Patterns

