

## Welcome to Reception

*Your teachers this term will be Miss Murray, Miss Bracher, Miss Stokes and Miss Ascuitto*

In Reception this half term we will be focusing on the following books:

- Farmer Duck by Martin Waddle
- Oliver's Vegetables by Alison Bartlett
- Handa's Surprise by Eileen Browne

### Our Learning:

- ❖ In PSED, we will be discussing the different factors that support our overall health and wellbeing. We will identify the importance of looking after ourselves and other people's feelings and wellbeing. We will think about the perspectives and emotions of others. We will use story time to discuss books that deal with challenges, explaining how the different characters feel about these challenges and how to overcome them.
- ❖ In Communication and Language, we will be focusing on teaching the children new vocabulary to do with our theme of growth as well as useful everyday vocabulary, encouraging children to use these throughout the day and in their talk. We will be looking to extend children's language by encouraging them to connect one idea or action to another using a range of connectives. Each half term we are teaching the children essential oracy skills to enable them to become successful speakers and listeners. This half term we will be focusing on taking it in turns when speaking, looking at asking relevant questions about a story and answering in full sentences using given sentence starters.
- ❖ In Physical Education, this half term we will be developing our balance, agility and coordination in Fundamental Target Games. The children will learn how to throw a range of balls using under and over arm techniques. We will use our feet to kick and strike a ball with power and accuracy. We will use our agility and balance to dribble a ball with some control. The children will work collaboratively with others to use equipment safely.
- ❖ In Maths, the children will continue to develop their subitising and counting skills and explore the composition of numbers beyond 5. We will continue to order numbers and play track games. We will explore and identify when two sets of numbers are equal and unequal and connect two equal groups to doubles. In space, shape and measure children will explore mass, measurement and capacity using the key vocabulary: **heavy- light - heavier – lighter-tall – short- shorter – taller- nearly full- full- nearly empty – empty.**
- ❖ In Literacy, we will be focusing on using our knowledge of the special friends (digraphs) sh, th, ch, qu, ng, nk and applying this into reading and spelling words containing these sounds. We will be using our set 1 phonics knowledge to start to read and spell simple captions and sentences. We will use our 'Fred Fingers' to support us in spelling these words, pinching each sound on our fingers before writing them down. Ditty sheets will be sent out as Reading homework each Friday for children to practice. We will also be continuing to focus on writing our surnames, ensuring the letters are in order from left to write and formed correctly.
- ❖ In Understanding the World, we will be focusing on 'nature and growth' this half term. We will start by learning about the role of a farm and the animals we may find on a farm. We will

look at how we care for the animals and what they need to survive. We will look closely at the life cycle of a chick in preparation for our incubator full of eggs arriving after Easter! We will then look closely at the types of crops and vegetables we grow on UK farms, linking this to our knowledge of the seasons. We will compare this to crops that grow in Africa and compare the climates. We will look at the different parts of a plant and learn about the stages in their life cycle. Finally, we will link this to learn about how we can stay healthy through exercise and healthy eating.

- ❖ In Expressive Arts and Design, we will be focusing on applying paint, where children will explore different ways they can apply paint including printing techniques such as sponge printing and using painted surfaces to create collages
- ❖ In Forest School, the focus this term is "Nature & Growth". We will be growing vegetables and cooking vegetables over the campfire using our "safe fire lighting rules". We also have our parent workshops this term to highlight the culmination of the children's learning thus far, such as den building, knot tying and storytelling.
- ❖ In Music, the children will continue to learn about pulse and rhythm through movement. The children will perform pulse through a variety of movements including clapping, walking and rhythm echo games. Through the many games we enjoy playing together, the children will learn to co-ordinate their movements with the music. The children will develop their sense of pitch awareness with hand movements, puppets, actions, and hand signs. They will identify high and low pitches, match another person's pitch in call and response work. The combination of signings and rhythmic movement provides an ideal unconscious learning experience for the children. We will build children's confidence by offering them opportunities to perform independently. We will sing songs including Engine, Engine Number 9 and Cobbler, Cobbler.