



Autumn term 2nd half 2024

Reception class newsletter



Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome back! I hope you all had a lovely half term break. This half term in Reception, we will be continuing our study of all things Autumn along with preparing for Christmas and Winter. We begin with a focus on Halloween, pumpkins and spiders. These themes will develop with the children's interests. The provision in class is set up with some spooky enhancements with a focus on reading and writing. We will be encouraging children to practise their phonic skills at every opportunity! As the half term develops, we will also be learning about stars and darkness, winter trees, reindeer and hibernation along with events such as Bonfire Night, Remembrance Day, Diwali and of course Christmas! We will be having our first Forest School sessions, exploring and being adventurous, as well as learning about being safe around the fire circle.

In **Literacy**, we will be focusing on both traditional stories such as *The Three Little Pigs* along with others linked to theme learning as part of Drawing Club. We begin with the Meg and Mog story called 'Meg's Veg' and will be attempting to write our own spooky spells. We will also be sharing stories and non-fiction text to enhance our theme learning, starting with some brilliant Halloween stories! We will continue with Phase 2 phonics, encouraging the children to blend and segment to read and spell words, moving on to simple captions and sentences. We will be focusing more on letter formation and name writing now too. If you are practising name-writing at home, please use the correct letter formation that is stuck in the Phonics Journal. Each letter has a 'patter' to help the children remember how to form it. Children continue to receive a daily phonics session of 20 minutes. They will also be bringing home reading books to support their phonics learning and will take part in weekly Guided Reading sessions in small groups (we call this 'Cosy Club'). We will begin to learn 'tricky words' in phonics sessions - these are words that cannot be sounded out and blended but simply must be learnt by sight. Your child will receive word cards to help them learn these tricky words.

In **Maths**, we will be consolidating our understanding of numbers 1-5, learning about how each number is made up (number bonds) and exploring subitising and grouping. We will compare numbers 1-5, explore changes within numbers 1-5 (one more and one less), learn about simple practical addition and subtraction to 5 and explore the conservation of number. We will learn about the 'rules of counting' and continue to use Numberblocks to enhance learning. We will move on to numbers 6-10 and learn about ten frames and how to use these to spot patterns and groups within numbers to 10. We will also be introducing 2D and 3D shape, along with positional language and measuring length.

Characteristics of learning

In Reception, we have a big focus on 'being a learner' and how to do this. We will be discussing and observing children's engagement in learning (child led but also adult directed!), their motivation to learn along with their thinking skills and ideas.

We will be learning songs for our Christmas performance this half term - have you put the date in your diary for our play? (2pm on Monday 9th December). We will also be continuing with *My Happy Mind* as part of our personal and social development - learning all about our brain.

Kind Regards,

Mrs Boon and the EYFS team

Children will have P.E every **Tuesday** and **Wednesday**. Please make sure children have correct P.E kit and long hair is tied back / earrings are removed. We will be focusing on Fundamental Movement skills along with dance / imaginative movement.

Outdoor learning - children will have daily access to outdoors (where it is safe to do so). We begin by encouraging the children to create spooky spells and potions for Halloween. We will be taking the class on Nature Walks in our local area too to enhance their understanding of the current season and explore / have fun. Our Chair of Governors, Mrs Thompson, accompanies us on these walks but we also welcome parents / carers if you wish! We walk on Tuesday afternoons usually and will let you know in advance when we plan to go.

Please remember you can send your Wow moments to: newstarters@coateslane.lancs.sch.uk - or use Tapestry to send photos and key moments if you wish.

If you want to see what we are up to in class, we will be sharing photos and notes via Tapestry too - keep your eye out for loads of fun activities going on! Please like our posts so we know you have seen them.

Key dates this half term:

Monday 28th October - back to school! We have a student, Mr Whiteley, joining us every other week from now on and he will be with us this first week back.

Thursday 31st October - HALLOWEEN DRESS UP!

Tuesday 5th November - phonics workshop for parents after school in Reception classroom - 30 mins (siblings welcome)

Thursday 14th November - World Diabetes Day. Stay and Read session after school for Reception parents / carers, their child and any siblings (in class - 20 mins)

Friday 22nd November - interim reports sent home (an indication of how your child is getting on)

Monday 25th November - Parent Interview meetings 1.30pm until 7pm

Friday 6th December - pantomime in school

Monday 9th December - Reception Christmas play 2pm in the school hall

Thursday 12th December - Christmas Jumper Day

Monday 16th December - Christingle event in school

Thursday 19th December - class parties

Friday 20th December - finish for the Christmas holidays, 1.30pm