



# Spring term 2025 1<sup>st</sup> half

## Reception class newsletter



Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome back! I hope you have had a wonderful Christmas and the children have all managed to have a rest. I can't believe we are in the second term already! We have lots of exciting things planned within our nature study theme of Winter, which includes learning about birds and migration with a focus on robins, learning about snow and ice. We plan to hold a Fire and Ice festival for parents at some point during this half term (more to follow on this!) and will be continuing with our nature walks as often as we can.

In **Literacy**, we will be continuing to use Drawing Club, encouraging the children to enjoy stories, learn new vocabulary, draw in detail, talk about their own 'story' and write a secret code to make something happen to their drawing! The writing will be linked to phonics learning, and we will encourage children to write simple captions and sentences now, using 'tricky' words too. Our first text in Drawing Club is the traditional story of *Little Red Riding Hood*. We will be starting Phase 3 phonics with all children and some children will receive extra intervention to support them in securing Phase 2. We have completed phonics assessments at the end of last half term - please ask if you would like to know how your child is getting on. Children continue to receive a daily phonics session of 20 minutes. This will be focused a lot more on writing as well as reading now. We will be learning how to write simple captions and sentences, as well as securing blending and segmenting skills and learning new phonemes, digraphs, and tricky words. New 'tricky word' cards will be sent home for those children who know the Phase 2 words. We will be focusing on forming letters correctly using our handwriting pattern. Children will continue to bring home reading books to support their phonics learning and will continue to take part in weekly reading (**Cosy Club**) sessions in small groups with Mrs Boon.

In **Maths**, we will be continuing to develop our knowledge of the composition of numbers to 5, as well as developing our knowledge of numbers 6-10. We will be securing our subitising skills and practising counting to and from different numbers in ones. We will be learning about simple addition/subtraction using the part-whole model and objects / pictures. We will learn about 2D shape. We will be measuring length, weight, and capacity in a practical way too.

### 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.

In PSHE, we will continue to use My Happy Mind to learn about our brain and how to look after our mental health, along with talking about New Year wishes and being safe online.

We will be following the Charanga music scheme and may even send you some videos of our wonderful singing, all based on nursery rhymes.

P.E will continue to be every **Tuesday** and **Wednesday**. Please make sure children have correct P.E kit and long hair is tied back / earrings are removed or covered.

Miss Crowther will be teaching R.E (all about Jesus and belonging), History (learning about castles) and various art skills during Wednesday afternoon PPA time.

Kind Regards,  
Mrs Boon and the EYFS team

**Outdoor learning** - children will have as much access to the outdoors as we can manage with our current staffing (where it is safe to do so). We will be observing the changes to our local environment during winter and bringing nature into our play and learning as much as possible, using Forest School as much as we can. This coming week, we have a Forest School session where we will be bird spotting /scavenger hunting and next week we plan to toast marshmallows at our firepit. We have recently purchased some lovely new outdoor resources to enhance gross motor skills, such as den making equipment and large brushes along with bug hunting / bird watching equipment. 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! Our first walk this term will be on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> January in the afternoon.

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

#### **Key dates this half term:**

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025** - back to school!

**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January** - P.E - please send P.E bags to school for today; they can be kept in school for the half term if you wish

**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> January** - Forest School sessions - normal uniform to be worn please. PLEASE MAKE SURE YOUR CHILD HAS HAT, GLOVES ETC TO KEEP WARM

**Week beginning 13<sup>th</sup> January** - Forest School sessions - normal uniform to be worn please. PLEASE MAKE SURE YOUR CHILD HAS HAT, GLOVES ETC TO KEEP WARM

**Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> January** - nature walk (afternoon)

**Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> January** - straight after school. Stay and Read session for Reception parents / carers - with hot chocolate!

**Week beginning 3<sup>rd</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> February** - Reception Fire and Ice festival for parents / carers, 2pm at our Forest School area (this is weather dependant as we would rather hold it when the weather is cold enough to freeze things! Date to be confirmed as soon as possible)

**Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February** - finish for the half term holidays at 3.25pm.

