

Autumn Term at Marie Weller Primary School

Reception Newsletter

Meet the Team

Class Teachers

Miss S Abbotts
Head of School
EYFS Lead

Miss J Bloxham
EYFS Class Teacher

Mrs L Leatherland
Student Teacher

Support Staff

Miss E Houghton
Teaching Assistant

Mrs S Twemlow
Mrs S Watts
Lunchtime Supervisors

Key Dates

Wednesday 29th September

Individual Pupil Photos

Friday 8th October

#HelloYellow

Tuesday 19th October

Parents' Meetings

Thursday 21st October

Harvest Stay and Play

W/C 25th October

Half Term

Monday 15th November

Anti-Bullying Day, wear Odd
Socks to School

Friday 19th November

Children in Need

Thursday 2nd December

Winter Stay and Play

Wednesday 8th December

EYFS Christmas Production

Friday 10th December

Christmas Jumper Day

Tuesday 14th December

Theatre Trip to The Gruffalo

Wednesday 15th December

Christmas Lunch

Friday 17th December

Last Day of Term

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Reception at Marie Weller Primary School! We are very impressed with the way that the children have settled into their new school and classroom. We are very much looking forward to the year ahead.

Each week we will be working on a different theme, which will be based on our observations of the children and suggestions from their interests. Our weekly activities and adult guided learning will be linked to these themes and will be shared with you on a weekly basis via Class Dojo.

Reception Baseline

The Reception Baseline Assessment is an interactive and practical assessment of your child's early literacy, communication, language and mathematics skills when they begin school. It will be undertaken with your child's class teacher and will measure your child's progress from Reception to Year 6.

Once the children are happy and settled, the reception teachers will spend 1:1 time with your child, getting to know them and determine if they need further support in any areas. When your child reaches Year 6, you will be able to see the progress your children have made throughout their school journey.

Subject Overviews

Personal, Social and Emotional Development: We are already impressed with the way that the children are accessing the new school environment and have adapted to Reception. Over time, we hope to see them beginning to increase their confidence when speaking to adults about their needs, wants and opinions and building new friendships. We will be celebrating their achievements and successes and how they overcome challenges in their learning and play.

Each day the children will be reminded of the class rules and appropriate behaviour through the use of our reward system. This is made up of the 'Super Star', 'Happy Sun', 'Thinking Rainbow' and 'Calming Cloud'.

Communication and Language: As the children begin to work on the full timetable, we will be developing their concentration skills and working with them to maintain attention during carpet and group learning times for more extended periods. We will be having daily class 'talk time' where the children can discuss and listen to the ideas of others. We will be talking through new events and encouraging the children to express their feelings about these.

We will also be introducing 'Tapestry Share' where the children will have time to talk about their experiences and achievements from home. Please feel free to add photos and posts to Tapestry so we can share these with the class.

Tapestry

Throughout the week you will have notifications to view new entries to your child's Tapestry journal, which will have been input by different adults in Reception.

In order for us to build a full picture of your child's interests and achievements, we would love to see what the children get up to in their spare time. Please feel free to upload pictures, videos or comments to your child's learning journal via the app or the website. These will also be used during our Tapestry Share sessions, where the children will have chance to talk about them. We will happily support you with how to use Tapestry, if you are unsure.

Class Dojo

We will share whole year group information on Class Dojo. Throughout the year we will notify you on Class Dojo of simple tasks for child to complete which you can upload to your child's account on Tapestry. This will also be used to share information with you.

We can add extra emails to both Tapestry and Class Dojo. If you would like this or are having problems accessing either, please let us know.

What can I do at home to help my child?

- Encourage your child to be independent at home when eating and dressing.
- Discuss your child's school day and their feelings towards it.
- Encourage writing and mark making, using correct pencil grip.
- Spot letters, numbers and shapes in the environment.
- Share stories together, discussing the beginning, middle and end.
- Count together and order numbers.

Physical Development: PE sessions will be introduced this week (Friday). During these times we will be exploring our bodies and the different ways of moving. Our focus for this term will be on balance and co-ordination.

The children will be encouraged to write and mark make in a range of ways on a daily basis. We will be working with them to help them form recognisable letters and to hold a pencil correctly through our Kinetic Letters sessions. This will also support the children's gross and fine motor skills.

Literacy: Phonics sessions will be an important part of our weekly timetable. The children will be introduced to letter sounds in a fun and playful way. They will be encouraged to hear and say the sounds in words and begin to build these together when writing.

The children will be encouraged to read and enjoy books both together and independently. Each day we will be sharing a class story to promote a love for reading. We will also be listening and discussing different themes within the book using lenses from our Reading Rainbow.

Reading folders will be sent out later in the term and you will be notified when this starts. It is very important that you ensure that these are kept in book bags every day and returned to us for reading books to be changed.

Further information on Phonics and Reading will follow once the children have fully settled.

Maths: During Maths sessions the children will learn and practise basic number skills: counting, ordering, recognising and representing numerals to 10 and beyond. We will be introducing the concept of more and less and we will begin to solve problems involving this. The children will also be naming and describing 2D shapes and discussing their properties.

Understanding the World: The children will be experiencing and taking part in a variety of celebrations this term. These include Bonfire Night, Diwali, Harvest and Christmas. We will be talking about cultures and traditions and discussing the similarities and differences between others and ourselves. We will also be exploring the world around us, noticing any seasonal changes, as well as the natural world.

Expressive Art and Design: Our role-play and small world areas will change on a regular basis in accordance with our themes. In these areas, the children will be able to take on a variety of roles and act out narratives with their friends.

We will be creating individual and collaborative artwork using a range of materials and techniques. The children will be encouraged to select the correct colours for different purposes and create simple representations of people, events and objects. We will also be learning different songs and rhymes and exploring sounds that we can hear and make. The children will be encouraged to discuss how different music makes them want to move and how it makes them feel.

We will be looking at different artists to create some of our own pictures and we will be exploring mixing colours and textures to contribute to our whole school displays.