Monday 9th January 2023

Dear Parent / Carer / Guardians,

Happy New Year! Welcome back, this half term is going to be a busy and exciting one for the children in Reception. Our theme is ‘Ticket to Ride’ and we will be exploring modes of transport and different journeys taken. Please see the table below for further information for this half term:

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| ***Area of Learning*** | ***Focus*** |
| Personal, Social and Emotional Development | Children will be taking part in weekly circle times. They will have the opportunity to talk about themselves and their family. Children will be encouraged to take turns and listen to each other. We will also be talking about our wider school family and our school Golden Rules. We will continue to work on personal hygiene, such as regular handwashing and looking after our teeth. |
| Communication and Language | We will continue to focus on our circle time rules, encouraging the children to take turns to share their thoughts and ideas on a specific question/subject. During this time the children will pass a soft toy around the circle. They will know that when it is in their hands it is their turn to talk and at other times they will be expected to look and listen carefully to their friends as they speak. |
| Physical Development | There will be daily opportunities (weather permitting) for children to play outside during this half term. **Please could you ensure your child has a pair of wellies that can be left at school to allow them to access the outside provision in any weather.** They should also have a warm, waterproof coat that they can put on and fasten up independently.  Every Friday the children will complete their PE lesson with Mr Brigg, our PE coach. |
| Literacy | This half term begins with assessing and consolidating Phase 2 and then moving on to Phase 3 phonics, which includes the teaching of some digraphs ( two letters making one sound, eg ch ). There will be further support for the children who are not yet confident with Phase 2 sounds. Children should now be beginning to blend sounds together to make words.  Most children this half-term will bring home a phonics based book to read. Please ensure your child keeps their reading record in their book bag. Children will be encouraged to use their phoneme fingers to sound out and blend words using their phonic knowledge. Please continue to share a book with your child every day if possible.  In writing children will be again encouraged to use their phoneme fingers to sound out and write simple words. We will continue to practise daily name writing and correct letter formation and again it would help to practise this at home. Your child’s names should start with a capital letter, but the rest of the letters should be lower case. In writing we will also be encouraging children to use finger spaces and to begin to use full stops when writing simple sentences. |
| Mathematics | We continue to have two maths inputs every day. Our ‘Mastering Number’ session focuses on securing firm foundations in the development of good number sense for all children in a 10 minute lesson. After lunch we have a further maths input where we learn together, work practically and complete small group/individual work tasks within the provision over the week linked to the focus objectives. Our topics for this half-term will be:  **Alive in 5!** - Introducing 0 / Comparing numbers to 5 / Composition of 4 and 5 / Comparing mass / Comparing Capacity  **Growing 6, 7, 8!** – Introducing 6, 7 and 8 / Combining groups / making pairs / comparing height and length / Days of the Week  You can help at home by supporting your child in understanding the three rules of counting :   1. Count everything once. 2. Say the numbers in the right order. 3. The last number you say is how many in the set. |
| Understanding of the World | This half term we will begin by taking part in a local history study, looking at how school has changed since our parents and grandparents attended and completing a timeline of school life. with a sensory trail of our school environment and then move on to finding out about where we live and the places we have visited around the world. We will be looking at methods of travel, leading up to a visit to the moon! With Chinese New Year approaching, we will be comparing similarities and traditions between cultures and families.  Our Religious Education focus question is**: Which places are special and why?** |
| Expressive Art and Design | Children will have the chance to work creatively every day in our areas of indoor and outdoor provision. There will be weekly music sessions with Mrs Marsden. This half term children will again be singing familiar songs and nursery rhymes. They will also be exploring sounds and will have the opportunity to use different musical instruments. |

Your child will need the following:

**Book Bags**- Please remember that your child needs to bring their book bag to school every day.

**Water bottles**- Please make sure that your child has a clearly named water bottle in school every day. Please don’t transport your water bottle in your book bag as the water can damage the reading books if they leak.

**PE kit:** Please ensure your child’s PE kit is in school every **Friday morning**. Indoor kit is navy blue shorts and white T-shirt. PE kits should be in a clearly named pump bag, these are available from the school office.

**Wellies:** Please send a clearly named pair of wellies into school to be left at your child’s peg to allow them to access the outside provision in any weather.

**Attendance and punctuality**

We would like to emphasise the importance of excellent attendance and hope that you and your child will make every effort to make sure that you are on time and ready for the school day. The school doors open for 08:45am and your child’s class teacher will meet them every morning in the Reception playground to bring them into school. Our school day finishes at 3.15pm and we will hand your children to you through our classroom doors.

If you have any questions, please feel free to speak to any of us at the end of the school day.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Wardell, Miss Stocks and the Reception Team