



Birchwood Avenue Primary School

Headteacher: Miss E Hall

www.birchwoodavenue.herts.sch.uk

Birchwood Avenue, Hatfield, Hertfordshire, AL10 0PS

☎01707 262503 ✉admin@birchwoodavenue.herts.sch.uk 🐦@birchwoodavesch

Reception Summer Newsletter

Welcome to Summer at Birchwood! Reception Class are continuing to learn and grow with great enthusiasm. We are very much looking forward to exploring new concepts with the children this term and exercise their minds whilst preparing the children for their transition into Year 1. Our learning superpower this half term will be 'Curiosity' where children are encouraged to ask questions about the world in which we live. We feel as a school that our values underpin our learning behaviour, and this is reflected in our work.

Theme

Our theme for Summer 1 is 'Amazing Animals'.

Our theme for Summer 2 is 'The World- Then and Now'

PE

Our PE day this term is on **Tuesdays**. Please ensure your child has their PE kit in school at the beginning of term for them to change into. Your child's PE kit should include their house colour T-shirt that has been provided by the school. All items (including the bag) must be clearly named.

We advise that, rather than plimsolls, trainers are better at supporting children's ankle development. We will be working to develop the children's gross motor skills, moving in a variety of ways, such as hopping or jumping. We will also be spending a lot of time working on awareness of space around us.

Phonics

We teach phonics every day in Reception. The children are split into different groups for our phonics sessions to allow us to target their specific needs. At Birchwood Avenue, we use a scheme called **Read Write Inc**. The children revisit a different sound each day, practice forming it correctly and find words that start with that sound. As the children are making excellent progress with their reading and blending, the ditty sheets have been introduced to help them develop fluency when reading. We will begin to use reading books once the children are able to do so.

Reading



Reading is one of the most important aspects of our Reception curriculum. We will be reading at least one story to the children every day and we encourage you to do the same. We model the way that we read with expression and enthusiasm and talk about the things that we see and hear. As we develop our phonics, we will be asking the children to read simple words and sentences with us. A Reception reader should be able to read a book that matches their phonic ability by the end of the year. We will meet new stories and revisit old friends as we move through the year. The children have access to puppets and a stage area to support them in acting out the stories and changing them to make stories of their own.

The children read daily in groups with the teachers, and this is vital to developing early reading skills. Reading folders are sent home every day and we ask that they are returned to school the following day. Please read daily with your child to support their reading success and sign the reading journal with a short comment.

Writing

Chances for Reception children to develop their writing can be found everywhere in our classroom and in our curriculum. A Reception child should be able to write simple phrases and sentences with recognisable letters by the end of the year. We support them to reach this point with the use of 'Drawing Club' which was designed by Greg Bottrill, a leading educational author and practitioner of Early Years education who holds a passion for children learning through play-based activities. The children access a themed book for the week and the children use their imagination and creativity to draw the character, the setting and possible alternative outcomes to the stories. They are encouraged to write simple phrases or sentences independently with their teacher using phonic mats and key words to support their writing. Woven into the classroom and outside learning environments are opportunities to develop their writing on a daily basis. We encourage the children to begin with simple labels for their pictures and their name or writing a shopping list in the role play area. We celebrate writing in all areas of the classroom and in all aspects of their play so that it becomes a regular part of their routine. You could support this at home by helping them to practise writing their name and by encouraging them to include writing in their play at home.

Maths

This term, children will consolidate their counting skills, counting to larger numbers and developing a wider range of counting strategies. They will secure knowledge of number facts through varied practice. Pupils will explore a range of representations of numbers, including the 10-frame, and see how doubles can be arranged in a 10-frame. They will compare quantities and numbers, including sets of objects which have different attributes. Furthermore, they will continue to develop a sense of magnitude, e.g. knowing that 8 is quite a lot more than 2, but 4 is only a little bit more than 2. They will begin to generalise about 'one more than' and 'one less than' numbers within 10. Children will also continue to identify when sets can be subitised and when counting is necessary. Finally, they will develop conceptual subitising skills including when using a rekenrek. The use of concrete resources such as counters, tens frames and Numicon is invaluable to support the children with their maths learning.

PSHE



During our PSHE lessons, the children will have the opportunity to think about and discuss 'Relationships'. We will discuss how to make friends, how to treat others, and know how to help themselves and others when they get hurt.

During Summer 2, we will consider 'The Changing Me' when we learn about our bodies and talk about any worries that we may have about transition into Year 1.

Please come and speak to me or any other member of the Reception team, if you have any questions. The positive relationship between parents and the teaching team is essential to the happiness and success of your children.

Thank you for your ongoing support,

Mrs Dyos, Mrs Chalk and Miss Webster.