



Birchwood Avenue Primary School

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Reception Class 2025-2026

Spring Newsletter

Welcome to the Spring Term at Birchwood Avenue Primary School. Reception Class are now settled and are eager to continue their journey through their first year in school. We are really looking forward to continuing our amazing learning and development this term. Our learning superpower this half term will be 'Empathy' where children will begin to understand and share the thoughts and feelings of others. We feel as a school that our values underpin our learning behaviour, and this is reflected in how we treat other people.

Phonics

We will continue to teach phonics every day in Reception. The children are assessed regularly to ensure that they are correctly placed with an adult within three groups. This allows for high quality teaching and ensures that personalised learning can take place. At Birchwood Avenue, we use a scheme called **Read Write Inc.** The children will be learning Set 2 sounds this term and we will continue to focus on handwriting formation, sound blending and move towards holding a sentence and then writing a short phrase using the sounds which have been taught. We will hold another parent's workshop during the term to support with helping your child at home.



Reading

The children in Reception class love to listen to stories. Reading helps to build vocabulary and exposes children to new words and phrases. It helps children to understand sentence structure and improves listening skills, attention and prompts a love of stories. A word blending book will be sent home and we ask that you read daily with your child and sign the reading record. This book will help to develop fluency when reading whilst using their phonic knowledge and word blending skills. Alongside this book, a library book will come home to promote a love of reading.



Writing

In Reception, we use Drawing Club which is a fun and imaginative approach to writing which helps your child to develop early writing, storytelling and language skills. In each session, we engage in a book which is linked to our themed learning. We learn ambitious vocabulary which we might find in the story and revisit this daily. The children watch their teachers draw part of the story and the children write a word linked to our phonics learning that day. This method of learning allows children to create their own characters and stories, talk and explain their ideas, develop their



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fine motor skills, begin to write with independence and explore new words and language linked to the stories. The children will gradually work towards write a short phrase that they have rehearsed ensuring that the correct punctuation is in place. Additional opportunities for writing can be found throughout the provision such as writing labels for their work, making lists or ordering from our class bakery. Children should be encouraged to write their names independently and support with this from home is useful.

Maths

This term, we will be focusing on helping the children to develop a deep understanding of numbers to 10. This means they are not just counting, but really understanding what each number is made of. The children will learn to understand numbers to 10, including how each number can be composed and partitioned (for example, knowing that 5 can be made from 2 and 3, or 4 and 1). They will continue to learn to subitise quantities up to 5 (recognising how many objects there are without needing to count them). Children will be encouraged to automatically recall number bonds to 5, including subtraction facts (e.g. $5 - 2 = 3$). They will begin to recall some number bonds to 10, including double facts. We use songs, stories, tens frames, practical resources and games to help make this learning secure and enjoyable. Alongside number, the children will be exploring patterns within numbers and how numbers relate to each other. Children will learn to verbally count beyond 20, noticing the repeating patterns in the counting system. They will learn to compare quantities up to 10 in different contexts, using language such as *greater than*, *less than* and *the same as*. The children will also learn to explore patterns in numbers up to 10, recognising even and odd numbers, double facts and how amounts can be shared equally. These skills help children to reason, explain their thinking and build strong foundations for future maths learning.



PE

On **Thursdays**, we will teach PE to the children. This term, the children will be learning about attack and defence games and how exercise affects our bodies. We are working on building the children’s independence with dressing and undressing so please ensure your child has their PE kit in school on this day, for them to change into and that independence with dressing and undressing is encouraged at home. 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.



Themed learning

During Spring Term 1, our themed learning will be based around ‘Traditional Tales’. Learning provision will be provided which sparks interest and curiosity around this theme whilst linking with their writing in Drawing Club. The



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children will be able to visit 'The Gingerbread Man's Bakery' and 'Jack and the Beanstalk's Castle' amongst other exciting opportunities. During the second half of the term, we will be learning about nature and growing and will develop our outside garden into a growing area for a variety of plants and vegetables.

PSHE

During our PSHE lessons, the children will have the opportunity to think about their 'Dreams and Goals' and set themselves challenging to overcome.



Although our learning is child-led, the curriculum is planned carefully to ensure that progression towards the Early Learning Goals and includes a strong focus on developing communication and language skills. The children are provided with a wide range of stimulating, purposeful and exciting learning opportunities to support this. With your continuing support, the sharing of information and maintaining open communications, we can support your child's happiness, confidence and success during this important year. Please do not hesitate to speak with us.

Mrs Dyos, Mrs Chalk and Miss Webster



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