

# Curriculum Information

## Reception Autumn Term



Hello everyone and welcome to Reception! We hope you had lots of fun in the summer holidays. We just want to take this opportunity to say how excited we are to be working with the children this year. Already they are showing great enthusiasm and a positive attitude for school life so we can't wait to start our adventures together! Our topic this half term is "Amazing me" with a focus on the big question "Who am I?". We cannot wait to see what you have put in your 'All about me' bags and to get to know you better. Our topic day will be all about belonging. We will be settling in to school and getting to know the routines. In the first week we will be busy making our entries for Harden Horticultural Show. Please bring in any recycling you may have so we can get creative!

Throughout Reception we will share your child's progress through "Marvellous Me" including whole class, small group and individual learning. You will be given separate information including how to set up a login for this. In regards to reading, your child will have wordless books for the first few weeks so you can talk to them about the pictures and ask them questions along the way. Your child will be read with 3 times per week so please ensure they have their book with them everyday. Book changes will be on a **Monday** and children will complete their 3 reads in school and bring them home to practice with you from **Wednesday**. Alongside this your child will visit the library on a **Friday** where they can choose a book they can share with you at home. P.E will be on a **Monday** and a **Wednesday**. Your child **must** come in their P.E kit.

## Maths

This half term we will be focusing on numbers 1-5 including recognising numerals, counting forwards and backwards and making amounts. We will also be identifying and making patterns using a variety of resources.

Throughout the home setting maths will occur naturally however there are a few things you can do to support your child with their school focus for this half term.

- Going on a number hunt in the natural environment (door numbers are great)
- Counting at every opportunity
- Making patterns using a variety of resources (cubes, cars, fruit)
- Mark making numbers with different materials (glitter, shaving foam, sand)
- Download the White Rose 1 minute maths app and have a go at some games!

## English

Our English work will introduce the children to drawing club. Through these sessions the children will develop their love of stories, practice drawing, mark making and writing. We will explore the structure of a story, looking closely at the beginning, middle and end. We will be encouraging children to retell stories using their own words emphasising on the vocabulary used throughout the stories. The children will be encouraged to use their imaginations to create drawings of alternatives to the story and to consider both characters and settings.

### **A few things to do at home to support the above:**

- When reading, pause and ask what might happen next.
- Ask why questions ("why are they sad?")
- Order the story through pictures

## **Phonics**

Our Phonics scheme at Harden Primary is "Little Wandle" The children will start their phonics journey this half term where they will be initially introduced to the sounds S,A,T,P,I,N. The children will rapidly work through the sounds of the scheme and you will see such a huge improvement in their recognition of letters, pronunciation of sounds and quite quickly their formation and spelling. Each time a sound is learnt we will provide a sound card for that letter. These will be in their reading wallets to share with you at home and practice! The children will learn phase 2-4 of the scheme before year 1. These include sounds and "tricky words" (words we can not sound out). More information will be given on the phonics evening so do come and see us if you require some extra guidance. No question is a silly question!

## **Reading**

Linking to our phonics scheme is also our reading sessions. Each Monday your child will be provided with a new Little Wandle reading book. During the first half term, before sounds have been introduced we will be looking at wordless books with a focus on speech and language and your child telling the story using visual aids as guidance. At school, your child is part of a reading group. Each group has between 6-8 children in. They then read together alongside the teacher or teaching assistant 3 times per week following the 3 sessions:

**Session 1 Decoding:** This is the chance to learn the story, learn new vocabulary and explore the structure.

**Session 2 Prosody:** A chance to continue learning the story, look at characters and use expression when reading.

**Session 3 Comprehension:** By this stage we hope the children are familiar with the story and need little help. At the end of the story we ask questions to check their understanding.

## **Topic**

This half term our topic is 'Amazing Me' and we will be answering the question 'Who am I?'. We will be settling into school and talking about new beginnings. We will look at family photos and talk about who is in our family and talk about our likes and dislikes. We will talk about how we have changed and what our dreams and aspirations are. Inviting people in to talk about their careers will allow us to talk about people who help us and make us aware of a variety of occupations. We will learn about our bodies and how to keep them healthy. Please make us aware of family situations if possible so that we can support children in the best possible way.

## **Technology**

Our focus this half term will be using paint tools. This will allow children to select colours, change brush sizes and draw with a purpose linking well with our art focus this half term. After half term we will introduce the children to simple coding enabling them to programme a turtle to move around a maze by inputting simple instructions.

## **Expressive Arts and Design**

The children always have access to the design and craft area but these will be complemented with different enhancements and focused activities related to their topic.

As a focus we will be answering the question 'How can I represent myself?'. The children will explore a range of media to mark make. The children will use a tripod grip to draw a portrait of them selves. They will learn about the artist Rob Biddulph. Check his drawing YouTube channel [www.drawwithrob.com](http://www.drawwithrob.com)

Through music we will learn about how we can use music to represent feelings and emotions. We will focus on beat and pitch.

## Physical Development

**Gross Motor:** Use of outdoor area, building dens, spatial awareness, using climbing frame equipment, being safe, building obstacle courses.

**P.E Focus:** Introduction to P.E & Ball skills following our scheme Get set for P.E.

**PE takes place on Mondays and Wednesdays.**

**Fine Motor:** Name writing, sound and number formation, threading and weaving, playdough, putting on shoes and fastening coats.

## R.E

This half term our big questions will be '**Who cares for me? and 'Who belongs in my family and community?'** The children will learn about people that help us in society. This is an opportunity to become familiar with significant people in our lives in school, at home and within the community.

## PSHE

This half term we will be looking at: helping others, caring for other peoples feelings, working well with others, starting school and responsibilities.

At Harden we also follow **My Happy Mind:** A wellbeing programme for primary children taught through a story. Our focus story this half term is Berty and Betty's play date. The activities will then look at: What does our brain help with? Difference between happy and sad and How do our brains work?

## Home Learning

**Reading** - As week 2 begins your child will be sent home with a reading book. These books begin without words to really deepen their comprehension skills. Once phonics has begun your child will then be sent home with a book with words to compliment the sounds taught in phonics. When reading to your child or hearing them read to you ask questions about what they have read to check their comprehension and that they have understood it. Encourage them to answer questions with explanations rather than 'because I think so'.

**Words** - As sounds are taught, flashcards will be sent home to practice. We recommend you do some sort of reading or phonics work daily to consolidate work completed at school but we understand that as the children start school it's sometimes just too tiring so don't worry too much as they have lots of practice when in school!

**Marvellous me** - Here you will find observations of things your child has done at school. This might be a wow piece of writing or maths or their amazing creation in the construction area. We aim for a variety of observations per half term. Please expect about x2 per week, per child. Please check this app regularly as it's our contact point for important school messages.

If there is anything you would like to discuss in person please let us know and we can arrange a date and time. If you have any questions please feel free to email us or catch us at pick up/drop off.

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Thank you, Mrs Moore and Mrs Wilkinson