



## RHODES AVENUE PRIMARY SCHOOL

**Reception - Autumn Term 2024**  
**Curriculum Newsletter (Termly Class Letter)**  
**Class Teachers: Kirsty Spittle, Rebecca Tubridy Myrtle Caldeira**  
**Nursery Nurses: Maria Ktorou, Anna Milic,**  
**Donna Cade**  
**Learning Support Assistants: Leonie Rahman**

### Introduction

Firstly, welcome to all our parents/carers who are new to Rhodes Avenue and to all parents/carers of children who have entered Reception after having attended our Nursery. The Early Years are the formative years of your child's education and we build upon the foundations laid down by you and previous settings. It has been a very exciting and productive beginning to the term. This time of year is about building relationships: your child with his/her peers, with staff and the wider school community. The children are settling so well into 'big school' and thank you for all your support during this process. We hope that you found the handbook both informative and helpful. If you have any concerns, or would like to share any information about your child, please try to speak to the class teacher during the 'soft start' at the beginning of the day. Alternatively, you can contact us by emailing the school office, who will forward your email onto us. Please refer to our updated communication policy for more information <https://rhodesavenue.school/our-school/policies/>

**This half term, our topic is 'We are all Fantastic!'**  
**Big question: How are we different?**

### **Prime Areas**

#### **Personal, Social & Emotional**

- Getting to know each other and developing confidence
- Learning names
- Introducing routines and encouraging children to generate their class rules
- Listening to instructions
- Coming into school and separating from their carer
- Practising hygiene routines – toileting and hand washing
- Turn taking games

#### **Physical Development**

- Exploring the outdoor area and equipment, balancing and climbing
- Using tools appropriately for malleable materials
- Using a pencil and other tools and equipment
- Healthy food and having lunch
- Beginning PE sessions with our class teachers and our specialist dance teacher, Jessica (JK Dance Academy), in the Sports Hall.

## **Communication and Language**

- Speaking and listening games
- Songs and rhymes about ourselves
- Introducing our core text to link to our topic
- Listening/responding to familiar stories and books about 'Big School'
- Introducing the book area and talking about their favourite stories/ characters
- Role playing with small world scenes and in our class role play areas

## **Specific Areas**

### **Literacy**

- Introducing the mark making and writing areas
- Self- registration, finding their own name
- Fun blending games with toys asking 'Can you touch your ch-i-n chin and your b-a-ck back etc' and looking at key words
- Gross and fine motor activities such as threading, squeezing, filling and pouring, etc.
- Making marks in the sand, salt, rice and on paper
- Handling books carefully & holding them up the correct way
- Starting our daily phonics lessons

### **Mathematics**

- Counting using objects of the child's choice e.g. trains, dinosaurs
- Counting the letters in their name
- Singing number songs and rhymes – '5 Little Ducks', '10 in a bed', etc
- Finding numbers in the environment e.g. looking for numbers on the bikes and ordering them in the outdoor area
- Looking for shapes in the environment and learning shape songs

### **Understanding the World**

- Observing seasonal changes
- Talking about our families and who, lives with us
- Celebrating important festivals
- Circle times on why we are all different and special
- Eating lunch at school
- Getting familiar with the technology equipment in the learning area

### **Expressive Arts & Design**

- First paintings
- Dancing
- Creating an Autumn area with a variety of different natural resources
- Singing familiar songs
- Exploring sounds with musical instruments

## **Observations and Planning for the Children's Progression**

In the Reception classes, both the teacher and the nursery nurse observe your children in different contexts. For example, they will be observed in both focus activities led by their teacher and in their independent play. The children are unaware they are being observed and by making observations the teacher can plan the next steps of learning for your child.

We use Tapestry as an online learning journal to document your child's time at school. You will soon receive an email asking for your consent to use this communication platform. Once you have provided consent, you will receive your log in details. Tapestry can also be used by parents/carers to record significant events and learning that happens at home. It is a lovely way to highlight your child's learning and development.

The Reception team incorporate child-initiated activities in order to personalise learning for your child and get them excited about coming to school. For example, if your child enjoys playing with trains, they might do practical activities such as counting with trains. We have three observation children a week and during this time we do numerous observations. Learning opportunities are then planned for each child the following week. When your child is an observation child you will receive a question sheet so we can find out their interests at home. Your comments along with their observations can help us motivate your child and help their development progress.

Despite having three children each week, we do observe all children and if your child is showing a particular interest in something at home, please do come and tell a member of the team as we can still try to incorporate it into the planning.

## **Key Person**

It is a statutory requirement that your child has a key person in their classroom environment. This means, that either the class teacher or nursery nurse is your child's key person and that they will be there to provide extra support for your child if they need it. The key person system has been adopted so that young children gain as much emotional support as possible during their early stages of development. Despite using a key person system in our school, the class teacher takes full responsibility for all the children and then works with the nursery nurse to make sure that your child is happy and settled in their class.

## **Home Learning**

A weekly round up of what we have been doing at school and suggestions for home learning (maths and topic) can be found on the school website each week. We actively promote children to listen to or read stories daily at home. Each week your child will receive sounds to consolidate phonics learning, once we begin our phonics sessions later in the term. This will be further explained in our information session for parents.

Your child should have a yellow book bag ready for October so please order one online if you don't already have one. Ensure your child's name is written clearly on it please.

## **Important Autumn term dates for your diaries:**

Reception information meeting for parents and carers	Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> October – 09:15am – 10am
Last day of Autumn 1	Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> October
Half term	Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> October – Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> November
Parent consultations	Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> November (4-6pm) Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> November (4-8pm) You will receive an invitation book an appointment at 10am on Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> November
INSET Day	Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> November

### **Other Information**

- \* If you have important information regarding pick up details, please let us know at the door in the morning.
- \* All important notices will be sent via email or text message, from the school office 'groupcall' system. Please make sure you have given your email address to the school office.
- \* We also need a change of clothes in a named bag please. This stays in school in a special box under their peg.
- \* Please do not send toys in with your child as they often get lost and cause upset.

### **Timetabling (After the settling in period)**

#### **\* Forest School – Monday**

Please ensure children have a pair of wellies in school and are dressed appropriately for outdoor learning, particularly in this Autumn term

#### **\* P.E. – Tuesday**

Please ensure your child is dressed appropriately in clothing that they can move easily in.

#### **\* Dance with JK – Wednesday**

Please ensure your child is dressed appropriately in clothing that they can move easily in.

### **Healthy Schools**

As part of school policy and our commitment to being a Healthy School we will provide a piece of fruit each day and some milk. Children are able to select these for themselves throughout the day. Please also provide a named water bottle. Children no longer need any additional snacks provided from home.

If you have any questions or queries, please do remember we are always here to help. We are looking forward to working with you,

The Reception Team

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