



# The Reception Year at Ashmole Primary School



Welcome to Ashmole Primary School!

Reception is a very important year for your children and they have settled in comfortably, adapting to new routines and growing in confidence each day.

Below we aim to help further your understanding of the experiences your children will have during the course of the year.

### **Teaching & Learning in Reception**

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) consists of 7 areas of learning:

*Communication & Language, Physical Development, Personal Social & Emotional Development, Literacy, Maths, Understanding of The World and Expressive Arts & Design.*

Each day all areas of learning are reflected inside the classroom and in our outdoor learning space. We offer many opportunities for your children to learn through play and exploration. Please remember that learning is embedded through play and your children will gain many valuable experiences this way, as well as through directed tasks.

In addition to this, there will be directed teacher input throughout the day, your child may refer to this as 'carpet time'. Each week there will be a Writing, Maths and Phonics focus activity. Later in the year, we will replace the Phonics focus activities with Handwriting. During these times children are invited to sit with the teacher 1:1 or in small groups to complete their activity.

At the end of the school year children will be assessed against the Early Learning Goals (ELG). You will be given a mid-year report to inform you of how your child is progressing and tips on how to help. In July you will then be given a more detailed end of year report. This report will also report which ELGs your child has met by the end of their time in Reception. Last year many of our children met all the ELGs. We are aiming for similar results this year!

### **Learning to read - Phonics**

At this early stage we are encouraging the children to handle books and retell stories, ensuring that reading is a positive experience. It is important at this stage that children enjoy reading. This will support them in the future when they are expected to read and write. Your children will take home a reading book and a reading record book. Many of the books the children will take home at first will have simple repeated words. We will listen to the children each week and move them to different stages when we feel the children are ready. Children need to be able to read the words and answer questions related to what they have read before they are moved on. Please read daily with your child and make a note of this in their reading record book. Feel free to record any other books your child has enjoyed reading too.

We are using Letters & Sounds and Jolly Phonics to teach the sounds in their purest forms. Each week we will teach 4 new sounds. We will encourage your children to practise the sounds

and actions at home and we will upload weekly videos to our school website to enable you to help your child practise the sounds and actions correctly. During Reception we teach Phase 1, Phase 2, Phase 3 and Phase 4 of Letters and Sounds. There are 6 Phases in total.

In the Reading Record book, we will also note any new words we are learning so that these too can be practised at home. These will include High Frequency words; words which they will frequently come across in their reading and Tricky words and words which cannot be sounded out, such as 'the' and 'no'.

### **Wow Books**

Your child may have started telling you about their 'Wow Book'. This is a special book we keep in class where we put samples of your children's achievements such as paintings, writing, photographs and so forth. It is one of the ways in which we keep track of your child's progress throughout the year. It is also available in class for your children to look at whenever they wish to.

### **Focus Week**

We focus on 3 children each week to observe their play, collect information about their interests, development and characteristics of their learning. We will inform you in advance, and then invite you in at the end of their focus week to discuss their progress. This will be a chance for you to tell us about any development and learning you have seen at home, as well as for us to share our observations with you. Please return the completed letter as this will be added to your child's Wow Book to mark the start of their Focus Week.

### **Star of the week**

Every Friday each class will select a Star of The Week. Examples of why children are chosen as Star of the Week include: excellent behaviour, kindness, perseverance, working hard and so on. The Star of the Week will take home a soft toy and diary. Please help your child draw a picture and write about something they do with the toy over the weekend. You can also put photos in if you wish to. Please encourage them to draw and write independently. If needed you can then write underneath. Please return it on the Monday so that your child can share the diary with the rest of the class and talk about their weekend.

We thank you for your continuous support and cooperation.

Many thanks,

The Reception Team ☺