

The Reception Year at 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. Thus providing 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. During these times children are invited to sit with the teacher 1:1 or in small groups to complete their activity.

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. After half term your child will take a school reading book home 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.

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 shortly be sending home a Sound Book.

We will be updating it weekly with new sounds that we are learning. This will help you in practising the sounds at home with your children the same way they are taught the sounds at school. At the moment we are at the start of Phase 2 of Letters & Sounds.

In their 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; 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.

Observations

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. This will also be starting shortly and a letter will be sent home for you to complete and return prior to your child's focus week.

Star of the week

We will also start to send home a soft toy and diary with a different child at the end of each week. 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