



NICHOLAS HAWKSMOOR  
PRIMARY SCHOOL

*An Academy of Academic, Artistic, Athletic and Excellence*

Autumn Term

# Reception Newsletter

## What can I do at home to help my child?

- Encourage your child to be independent at home when eating and dressing.
- Discuss your child's school day and their feelings towards it.
- Encourage writing and mark making, using a correct pencil grip.
- Spot letters, numbers and shapes in the environment.
- Share stories together, discussing the beginning, middle and end.
- Count together and order numbers.

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Reception! We are very impressed with the way that the children have settled and are very much looking forward to the year ahead.

Each week we will be working on a different theme, which will be based on our observations of the children and your comments in our wishing well. Our weekly activities and adult guided learning will be linked to these themes and will be shared with you on a weekly basis.

## Subject Overviews

### Personal, Social and Emotional Development

We are already impressed with the way that the children are accessing the environment and the Reception day. Over time we hope to see them beginning to increase their confidence when speaking to adults about their needs, wants and opinions and building new friendships.

Each day the children will be reminded of the class rules and appropriate behaviour. Shortly we will be introducing our reward system. This is made up of a super star, a happy sun, a thinking rainbow and a calming cloud.

### Communication and Language

As the children begin to work on the full timetable, we will be developing their concentration skills and working with them to maintain attention during carpet and group learning times for more extended periods. We will be having daily class 'talk time' where the children can discuss and listen to the ideas of others, whilst enjoying a snack together. We will be talking through new events and encouraging the children to express their feelings about these.

### Physical Development

PE sessions will be introduced when we feel the children are fully settled and ready. During these times we will be exploring our bodies and the different ways of moving. Our focus for this term will be on balance and co-ordination.

The children will be encouraged to write in a range of ways on a daily basis. We will be working with them to help them form recognisable letters and to hold a pencil correctly.

With the introduction of hot school meals we will be talking to the children about these, and the importance of eating a healthy range of foods. It is important that they become independent during lunchtimes by; using a knife and fork correctly, carrying their meal to the table and using appropriate table manners.

## Events

### Parents' Meetings

#### **W/C 9th October—**

Our aim is to hold a two-way conversation, in which we will share and gather information. This will help us to secure a full and cohesive picture of each child's learning and development needs. Parent appointments will last approximately 15–20 minutes and will run throughout the school day.

### Diary Dates

#### **19th October—**Harvest

Activity Day (parents welcome) times to be confirmed

#### **3rd November—** FONHS

Bonfire Night

#### **6<sup>h</sup> December PM –**

Foundation Christmas Production

#### **7<sup>th</sup> December AM—**

Foundation Christmas Production

#### **13th December—**

Christmas Activity Day (parents welcome) times to be confirmed

### Parent Helpers

We always welcome parent helpers. Please let us know if you can help out on a one off or on a regular basis. This may be to help in the classroom, gardening or share your special skill, interest or job with us.

## Subject Overviews

### Literacy

Phonics sessions will be an important part of our weekly timetable. The children will be introduced to letter sounds in a fun and playful way. They will be encouraged to hear and say the sounds in words and begin to build these when writing.

The children will be encouraged to read and enjoy books together. Class stories and group reading will happen on a regular basis where the children will listen to, read, and discuss books. Please ensure your child has a reading book in their book bag and encourage them to change this regularly. These can be chosen from the book basket. Your child's group reading book will be numbered and logged as they are given out. It is very important that you ensure that these are kept in book bags and returned to us to be changed each week. Further information on this will follow once the children have fully settled.

### Maths

During Maths sessions the children will learn and practise basic number skills: counting, ordering, recognising and representing numerals to 10 and beyond. We will be introducing the concept of more and less and we will begin to solve problems involving this. The children will also be naming and describing 2D shapes and discussing their properties.

### Understanding the World

The children will be experiencing and taking part in a variety of celebrations this term. These include Bonfire Night, Diwali, Harvest and Christmas. We will be talking about cultures and traditions and discussing the similarities and differences between ourselves and others.

The children will be given access to both the iPads and the interactive whiteboard to complete a range of activities. We will also be using a programmable toy and using positional language to direct it.

### Expressive Art and Design

Our role play area will change on a weekly basis in accordance with our themes and the children will be given the opportunity to assist with this. In this area the children will be able to take on a variety of roles and act out narratives with their friends.

We will be creating individual and collaborative art work using a range of materials and techniques. The children will be encouraged to select the correct colours for different purposes and create simple representations of people, events and objects.

Quality, Enthusiasm and Partnership