



NICHOLAS HAWKSMOOR  
PRIMARY SCHOOL

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

Spring Term

# Reception Newsletter

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

- Ensure independence when dressing and eating.
- Discuss taking responsibility for their own belongings.
- Complete their home challenge, sight words and reading activities.
- Encourage writing at every opportunity and use Tapestry to share this with us.
- Discuss combining groups of objects and use the language of 'add' and 'subtract'.
- Share stories together, discussing the beginning, middle and end.
- Count together and order numbers.
- Talk to children about what they would like to learn about and place learning wishes in our well.

Dear Parents,

We are very excited to welcome the children back to school for the Spring term. We hope that you have all had a fun but restful break and are looking forward to the new year as much as we are!

As a team we feel so proud of all that the children achieved during the Autumn Term and we are very excited to continue exploring a wide variety of different topics with them. Please continue to let us know about the different things your children would like to learn about by leaving comments in our wishing well or posting observations to Tapestry. This will help us to plan exciting weekly activities for the children and will be shared via our learning information wall (by the entrance to the classroom).

## Subject Overviews

### Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Over the coming term we will aim to encourage the children to be independent at every opportunity. This will help them to take charge of their personal organisation, enabling them to get ready for activities such as P.E. and Forest School and to tidy up and put their things away independently in the morning and get ready for home time on their own. While continuing to reinforce the behavioural expectations of the setting using the Super Star, Thinking Rainbow and Calming Cloud, we will be focussing on teaching the children about the ways that we learn and what this can look like. The children will become 'Learning Detectives' and will be encouraged to spot and evidence 'learning' on a regular basis. This will include things like working together, staying focussed and listening.

### Communication and Language

We have been enjoying daily 'Talk Time' and we will continue to use this time to develop the children's communication and language skills. While sharing thoughts and ideas on our weekly topic. We will encourage the children to listen carefully to one another to help them to respond to the ideas, thoughts and feelings of others in appropriate ways. We are already impressed with how the children have developed their questioning skills to allow them to find out more about what their friends are talking about. This term we will focus on encouraging the children to use 'how' and 'why' questions to develop their curiosity. The children are welcome to bring in topic based items (not toys) or a certificate if they wish to share news with the class. We regularly give the children opportunities to share news with their friends throughout the week.

### Physical Development

The children have loved their PE lessons in the Autumn Term, during which they have had the opportunity to explore their bodies and the different ways of moving. Teamwork will be encouraged and the children will work collaboratively to complete some exciting tasks.

To develop their fine motor skills, the children will be encouraged to write for an increasing amount of time in a range of ways on a daily basis, both independently and with an adult. In addition to this, we will continue handwriting sessions to help the children to learn to form letters in the correct way. The sight word booklets are a great way to encourage your child to complete writing based tasks at home.

## Events

### Parents Meetings:

These will take place throughout the day during the week of the 4th March.

### Diary dates:

**14th February** - Hearts and Flowers day , Parents are welcome to attend in the **afternoon** (time to be confirmed).

**3rd April**— Easter activity session, , Parents are welcome to attend in the **morning** (time to be confirmed).

### Parent Helpers

We are always pleased to have visitors, If you would like to share with us your special skill, interest or job please let us know.

### Tapestry

Throughout the term we will continue to upload observations of the children's learning. Please feel free to comment on any observations and to upload any observations of learning at home. If you are having any difficulties with Tapestry or need support on how to upload observations, please ask a member of the team.

## Subject Overviews

### Literacy

Phonics sessions will be continue to be an important part of our weekly timetable. The children will work in small groups to hear and say the sounds in words and begin to build these when writing. The frequency of writing sessions will be increased and the children will use both the independent work and writing books on a regular basis. We will be encouraging the children to form sentences and check that they can read them themselves.

The children will be encouraged to read simple words and sentences in books, spotting sight words and sounds whilst doing so. They will continue their group reading, focusing on key reading skills such as rhyming, retelling, sequencing and talking about the key features of books. Please read with your child as regularly as possible and make sure that their reading folder is returned to school each day to enable us to change their reading book weekly.

### Maths

Maths groups will now focus on securing number knowledge by counting aloud, recognising and writing numbers to 20 and beyond. We will begin to introduce the concepts of addition and subtraction in practical contexts, before moving onto recording our working out. Throughout the term we will also be learning about time and money in our role play area and during adult-guided maths activities.

### Understanding the World

The children will be experiencing and taking part in a variety of celebrations this term. These include New Year, Valentines, Chinese New Year and Easter. We will also be learning about different countries and transforming our classroom each week to reflect these. Please let us know if your child has an interest in a particular country so that we can include this in our planning.

### 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.

### Drop Off Reminder

Please could we remind you that the adult on the main door is there to ensure safety and therefore cannot engage in conversations nor, can they settle children. Please feel free to speak with any other team member and ask them for support with your child. This allows us to prioritise the safety of the children.

Quality, Enthusiasm and Partnership