

# Foundation Stage Newsletter Autumn 1 2022

## Reception - Beetles, Fireflies and Honeybees

Wishing you a warm welcome to Priory Rise – Reception year. We hope your child has settled well and is enjoying their time with us.

This half term our topics are 'All About Me, Black History, Safety and Adventurers & Explorers'. Here is some information about the skills and knowledge your child will be learning during this half term.

**Communication and Language:** Sharing weekend news, following one and two step instructions, sharing stories, storytelling activities, using talk partners to discuss ideas during learning time, appropriately asking for help, learning new vocabulary, developing sentences in response to stimuli e.g. stories, pictures, video clips, using language to make new friends, being able to use language to accurately describe what can be seen.

**Personal, Social and Emotional Development:** Sharing, making friends, building relationships with new adults, collaborative learning, teamwork, turn taking, being patient, solving differences with/without adult intervention, happily separating from parent/carer learning new routines, making new friends, seeing self as a valuable individual, expressing feelings and consider the feelings of others, being resilient in the face of challenge.

**Physical Development:** Healthy diets, taking off/putting on shoes and socks for P.E., managing personal belongings e.g. coats/book bags etc, different ways of moving and travelling in large and small spaces with increasing fluidity, scissor/cutting skills, managing personal care, using equipment, tidying up, dance activities, pencil control - developing an effective pincer grip to make marks and applying the correct amount of pressure, hand washing, good eating practices and good hygiene.

**Literacy:** Using the library and caring for books, sharing favourite stories, Little Wandle phonics scheme, name writing, labelling pictures and diagrams, understanding writing has meaning and is an effective form of communication, writing letters to match sounds, read simple words and a few common exception words, form lower- and upper-case letters.

**Numeracy:** Count objects, actions and sounds, numbers 1-5 recognition and manipulation, the value and story of 1,2 and 3 e.g.  $3=1+1+1$  or  $2+1$ , noticing these amounts in everyday life, ordering, counting, comparing and recording, subitising (instantly recognising amounts to 6 without needing to count them), naming 2D shapes and talking about their properties, finding similarities and differences, making/continuing patterns, developing reasoning skills e.g. 'I think that because...'.

**Understanding of the World:** Talk about members of their family, name and describe people who are familiar to them, comparing and discussing own family, families in our class and across the world, using a tablet, talk about their local environment, recognising some people have different beliefs and celebrate special times in different ways, describe what they see, hear and feel when visiting places inside/outside.

**Expressive Arts and Design:** Singing songs with actions or dance moves performing solo or within a group, using instruments to make music and rhythms, studying the artist Kandinsky, drawing circles, painting using water colour, using and manipulating various media and tools, develop storylines in their pretend play, role play, act out familiar stories.

### Meet the Team

**Beetles:** Mrs Benham-Smith (Mon, Tues, Weds am)/Mrs Woods (Weds pm, Thurs, Fri) → Teachers  
Mrs Savage → Teaching Assistant

**Fireflies:** Miss Giles → Teacher Mrs Wright → Teaching assistant

**Honeybees:** Miss Leaney → Teacher Miss Ashby → Teaching Assistant

**General:** Miss Smith → HLTA Mrs Tyrrell → General Teaching Assistant

**P.E. Sessions** - Children will take part in 2 x P.E. sessions per week, outside as much as the weather permits. Our specialist P.E. coaches Mr Neal and Mr Smyth will take these sessions. Your child will need P.E. kit for both sessions and should come to school dressed in their kit, which they will keep on for the day. Your child will need all black trainers, blue shorts or black/grey joggers if cooler, a white PE t-shirt and a blue hoodie/fleece.

### Star Boards



Celebrate something special that your child manages at home by completing a star for your child to share with their class and we will add it to the class display. We gave you a sheet of stars during the home visit. Simply write a short note about the achievement, add your child's name, cut out and send into school. Let us know if you need extra stars and we will pop some into your child's book bag.

### Welcoming Parents

We will be welcoming parents into class for drop off for the first part of the year, after half term we will move to dropping at Gate 6. Until then when the gate is opened at 8.30am by Mr Dickens please feel free to come on in. To try to speed this up in the morning please use both doors. If you feel your child is independent enough to come in by themselves, we are happy for you to drop them at the door so they may come the rest of the way by themselves and manage their belongings. Due to fire regulations buggies can not be brought into the building during this time.

### Home Visits

Thank you to all our families for welcoming us into your homes. It was a wonderful opportunity and privilege for us to finally meet you and be able to chat informally about this important transition for your child. We hope you found the visit useful too.

### Creative Modelling

The children love to make and create models from junk modelling. We would love to accept any donations of small box packaging, old gift bags, ribbons, card or anything else you think they might be able to get creative with. Sadly, we cannot accept the cardboard tubes from toilet rolls or anything that has contained nuts, meat or dairy.

**Clothing:** Please label all your child's belongings. Remember much of the uniform is the same, so it is difficult to tell whom items belong to. The shoes are particularly important now the children are having P.E. lessons as when they remove these they can easily be muddled with others.

### 'Adventures & Explorers Dress-up Day

The rest of the school had a dress up day themed around 'Adventurers & Explorers' during the first week of term. Our dress up day will be Friday 21st October once we are all settled. Children may choose to dress up if they wish following the same theme of 'Adventurers & Explorers'.

### Routines

- Your child will be able to borrow a book from the library, bring it home and return it the following week. Non return/damage of books will incur a charge so please ensure you look after it. Beetles – Mondays, Honeybees – Mondays and Fireflies – Tuesdays
- Wednesday morning – Music session with Mrs Horwood, our specialist music teacher
- PE – Thursday mornings with Mr Neal and Friday mornings with Mr Smyth
- All PPA (out of class teacher time for planning, preparation, and assessment) sessions will be covered by our amazing HLTA Miss Smith. Miss Leaney will take PPA on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, Mrs Woods on Friday mornings and Miss Giles on Friday afternoons

### C:MK Trip

During our week on Adventurers & Explorers each child will have the opportunity of becoming an explorer during their class visit to C:MK. We will go on a short walk from The Hub to Centre:MK where we will visit Build-a Bear and the central library. Visits will take place during the week beginning 17<sup>th</sup> October. More information to follow nearer the time.

### Class Bear

At Build-A-Bear each class will have the opportunity to make a class bear whom they will name through class vote, then throughout the course of the year each child will have the opportunity to bring the class bear home for the weekend for 3 sleeps. The bear will be washed between home visits.

You may choose to keep a diary of the time that the class bear came to visit for your child to share with their class.

### Personal Care

We would expect children who are starting the Reception year to be independent or almost independent in managing their toileting needs. The exception to this would be any child with a medical need. As mentioned in the induction information, we can manage children who have the odd accident - maybe because they are engrossed in their play or anyone with a care-plan because of their medical need - but we are unable to manage children who are yet to be toilet trained by their parents at home. If your child is not yet independent, please work with them to support them to achieve this as soon as possible. For some useful tips please see the website <https://www.eric.org.uk/poo-and-wee>

### Reading Books

Once the all the children are in class and settled, we will begin to informally assess the children in their reading ability, tricky word knowledge and aptitude for phonics. Once this has been completed, we will begin our daily phonics, reading and writing sessions. To coincide with and to support this, your child will be given a reading book to bring home and share with you. Please note reading books will be changed once a week on Fridays. If you wish for your child to have a new reading book, please put it into the basket at registration on the change day and we will send home a new one. Please make a note of the book titles your child has read in their red contact book, so we can avoid any repeats.

### Numbers and Patterns

As with reading and writing we will begin to assess your child in maths. We will look at knowledge of numbers and how they can apply these, as well as how well your child works with shape, space and measures. We will then begin our daily Numbers and Patterns sessions.

### Phonics Workshop

To support each child with reading and phonic acquisition we will hold a Phonics workshop. This workshop will inform you all about how we deliver our phonics programme: Little Wandle, and how your child will be taught to read and write, giving tips for how you can support them at home.

### Contact Books

We will provide your child with a small red contact book. The contact book should be kept with your child's reading book and will predominately be used by you as a record of your child's reading. Please record the titles of the books your child has read so we do not issue them the same one again. If you have time you could also make a note of how they got on with the reading. Occasionally, we may make comments too.

### New EYFS

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) curriculum has changed, it became statutory for schools in September 2021. Here at Priory Rise we chose to become early adopters of the new curriculum a year early so we already have this well embedded into our practice. We feel the new changes better support child development and we are excited to be embracing this change. If you have older siblings, you may notice slight difference from their time with us. The new EYFS framework can be found on this link, if you would like further information, and at your home visits we gave you a copy of the updated Early Learning Goals (ELGs) that your child will now be working towards for the end of the year.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-years-foundation-stage-framework--2>

### Book Bags

All children will need a book bag to transport books, letters and any artwork they bring home. Book bags are available from our school office; however an alternative rucksack or bag from home will be appropriate as long as it is big enough to contain a library book. Sadly, children will not be able to take their reading/library books home until they have a suitable bag to transport them in. Rucksacks can be kept on pegs whilst children with bookbags will put them in their tray in their classroom.

### Snack and Water bottles

Each day we will offer your child a school snack which will be a piece of fruit or veg. Your child will not need an additional snack from home during the school day. Children from Years 1-6 may have additional fruit from home, that they are able to manage themselves. Please provide your child with a named water bottle each day filled with water not squash.

Many children have been bringing water bottles but some of these are not yet named.

### Songs

We will be singing lots in class which fully supports language acquisition and memory, here are some songs we will be learning this half term and maybe you would enjoy practicing them at home too. Most of the songs are available on YouTube if you are not familiar with the words/tune.

1. Autumn Leaves (to the tune of London Bridge is Falling Down) - See attached words at end of Newsletter
2. Incy Wincy Spider
3. Five Currant Buns in a Baker's Shop
4. Five Little Speckled Frogs
5. Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes
6. If You're Happy and You Know it
7. Down in the Jungle

### Homework

Many of you asked about homework for your child.

- Read stories every day, 4-5 books is a good amount.
- Make reading part of your daily routine so your child knows what to expect.
- Later we will send out some phonemes on a key chain for you to practice reading then spelling with your child.
- We will supply phonics Take Home Cards, which will keep you up to date with which phoneme to focus on.
- Practice counting forwards and backwards to 10, counting out amounts up to 10 and finding different ways to make the numbers up to 5 then 10 e.g.  $4 = 0+4, 1+3, 2+2$ .
- Practise writing letters and numbers in a fun way, with chalk, with water and a brush, in rainbow colours, on a whiteboard, in a tray of sand/glitter.

### Year Group Email Address

We have a year group email address [reception@prioryrise.milton-keynes.sch.uk](mailto:reception@prioryrise.milton-keynes.sch.uk)  
Or call the office and we will call you back. Please appreciate that the office staff are experiencing a large volume of emails and calls at this time. Many thanks.

### Collection

As we move to fulltime days we will no longer be using the nursery exit, but the doors from the classroom directly onto the bottom playground. We will dismiss children to the parents at the front of the queue.

### Values

Each month we focus on a different value across the school. There are 33 school values in total that rotate on a 3-year cycle, please see the school website for more information.

This term our values are Love (September), Honesty (October), Kindness (November) and Trust (December).

### Birthday Sweets

Many parents ask us if they can send in cakes/sweets to celebrate their child's birthday and we are delighted to say we can accept these. Please be mindful Priory Rise is a nut free site and that a list of ingredients will need to be provided for cakes.

### Tapestry

We are very pleased with how Tapestry seems to be working so far. Hopefully, you have all been able to access your child's learning journey having successfully activated your account. If you have not been able to do this, please speak to your child's class teacher for some help. Thank you to all the parents who have commented on and liked different aspects and to some for their amazing posts of what your child does at home – we have loved seeing these.

Please feed back to us your thoughts on how you think it is going.

Here is a quick reminder of the Tapestry code of conduct we chatted to you about at your 1:1 visit.

#### **Code of Conduct**

- The online learning journey is used to **solely** record your child's learning and achievements.
- It is not to be used as a general communication tool between home and school.
- If you have any concerns about your child or their Learning Journey please speak to your child's key person/class teacher.
- The contents **should not** be shared on any social media websites.
- Photos **should not** be screen shot and reposted elsewhere.
- Rights to be able to post in learning journeys will be removed if these guidelines are not adhered to.
- Comments posted **must be positive**.
- You will be able to download the full contents when your child leaves the school or moves into Year One, before their account is archived. This is a lovely keepsake for you 😊.

### Reading

Some facts about reading, as your child continues along their magical text journey which will open the world to them.

- For a new skill to become automatic or for new knowledge to become long lasting, sustained practice is needed.
- Children will need good reading role models.
- Children will need access to lots of different reading material.
- Small daily acts of reading matter, gaps can quickly open.
- Children who are read to daily hear over a million more words than children who are not.
- Reading should be a pleasurable experience.
- Support and model to your child until they are confident, this may take longer than you expect, be patient.

### Suggested Stories

Story books support children enormously with their language development. Here are three stories we are going to be focusing on this half term. You may want to practise these with your child, helping them to remember the correct sequence, describe the characters, learn the words and add some actions.

Owl Babies by Martin Waddell  
Monkey Puzzle by Julia Donaldson  
Peace at Last by Jill Murphy  
Lost and Found by Oliver Jeffers  
Where the Wild Things Are by Maurice Sendak

Your child may like to bring in their favourite story from home to share with the rest of the class.

### **Reception Baseline Assessment**

The Reception Baseline assessment became statutory in schools from September 2021. This is an interactive 1:1 assessment which is designed to measure your child's starting point. We will be carrying out this assessment over the coming weeks and will send out the report - generated by the assessment - to you once finished. See the Information for Parents Booklet also attached to this communication.

### **Parent Consultation Meetings**

We will be holding our Parents' evenings remotely at some point next half term.  
More details of these to follow nearer the time.



# All The Leaves Are Falling Down

(Sing to the tune of 'London Bridge is Falling Down')

All the leaves are falling down, falling  
down, falling down,

(Imitate leaves falling down)

All the leaves are falling down, it is  
autumn.

Take the rake and rake them up, rake them  
up, rake them up,

(Imitate raking leaves)

Take the rake and rake them up, it is  
autumn.

Make a pile and jump right in, jump right  
in, jump right in,

(Children jump forward)

Make a pile and jump right in, it is  
autumn.