



## Reception Thames Class Curriculum Newsletter

### Autumn One

2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have been enjoying getting to know our new Reception class. The children are settling in well and we have seen lots of new friendships developing. They have been exploring their learning environment and getting to know the adults in the class too.

As you will know, it is our first full day on Monday. When they come in on Monday morning, after the children have put away their things and said goodbye to you, they will sit on the carpet for the register. It's also fine if they are feeling brave enough to come in independently. The class staff will be there to help them out if they need it.

**Our topic** this term is yet to be decided! In Reception, it is the children who take charge of their learning, and our teaching is very much fed by their interests. The children will all have the opportunity to suggest a topic that they want to explore. Together, we will narrow this down to one and we will also follow children's individual interests.

In **literacy**, children will spend a couple of weeks learning about and exploring sounds (hearing and recognising different noises in our environment, identifying rhyming patterns, etc.) before going on to learn the letters and sounds of Phase 2 in Phonics. There will be a meeting on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> September for parents and carers to discuss some of the ways we teach Phonics at Shire Oak and how you can help your child at home.

On Tuesday afternoons, children will have the opportunity to use the school library. Here, they will share stories and explore a wider range of reading materials. They can check out one book each week, just remember to bring back the last one they have borrowed.

In **maths**, children will familiarise themselves with some of the different equipment we use in school through their play in the learning environment. There will be a strong focus on number, counting, shape and measure. This will include knowing the true size/ value of a number (and how it relates to other numbers), comparing the weight/ length/ mass of objects, and identifying shapes and patterns. Much of the maths learning that the children do takes place in the areas of provision, both indoors and out, giving it greater purpose and meaning.

On a Wednesday afternoon, Mrs Woodley, our specialist maths teacher, will be in class while Miss Coulter has her planning time.

You can also have a look at what we get up to by looking at the Reception class Twitter, at <https://twitter.com/misscoulterrec> this can be accessed via the school website and a link will be sent out by text. It would be great if you could contribute to your child's learning diary by sending us an email or photograph of something your child is proud of or anything new they have learnt. Our class email address is [receptionclass@shireoak.leeds.sch.uk](mailto:receptionclass@shireoak.leeds.sch.uk). Thank you to everyone who has sent photographs of what their child has been up to over the summer and returned the 'Super Me' form that was given out at home visits.

**Clothes or equipment.** It's been great to see so many water bottles, labelled jumpers and book bags this week. As mentioned at home visits and our meetings for new parents/ carers, we want to give the children as many valuable opportunities as possible to

explore their environment and different materials (whatever the weather!). This means that they may well come home looking slightly the worse for playing in mud/ clay/ powder paints! Although we do give the children aprons, please remember that this is what uniforms are for. It would be good for the children to have a pair of wellingtons that can stay in school and a pair of waterproof trousers too.

You will see below that our PE day is Monday, so children will need a kit on these days. This includes a white or purple t-shirt, some dark shorts/jogging bottoms/leggings and pumps/trainers. Please make sure each item has your child's name on.

**Milk:** Just a reminder that if your child would like milk, you need to sign them up for it. The website is: <https://www.coolmilk.com/>

### How you can help

In Reception, we do not give the children half-termly homework, however, they may be given the occasional challenge related to their chosen topic. At this stage, any amount of sharing stories and developing their love of books is great. There will be notices in the classroom window, should you want to know more about our week-by-week learning in Maths and Phonics. Otherwise, feel free to see myself, Mrs Bennett, Miss Jones or Miss Hall if you would like anything further. We are always interested in how children are getting on with their learning at home and want to work with you to keep your child safe, happy and learning well. Do arrange to see us by catching us at the start or the end of the day or by asking at the office to make an appointment.

We are looking forward to a fantastic term.

Thank you

Miss Coulter, Mrs Bennett, Miss Jones and Miss Hall

PE Day	Reading book day	Library book day
Monday	TBC after reception phonics meeting for parents.	Tuesday