

Dear Parents and Carers',

Welcome back to school and happy New Year!!! This term in Reception we say goodbye and all the best to Bernadette as she takes her maternity leave at the end of January, and we say hello and welcome to Kate Oudyn who will be taking her place and teaching in RA and Co-ordinating the Early Years Foundation Stage.

For the Spring term we will be paying particular attention to the Knowledge and Understanding of the World, Communication Language and Literacy and Problems Solving, Reasoning and Numeracy components of the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum.

We will be further developing each child's independence within the classroom and school context, encouraging their ideas, thinking and planning and enabling them to direct more of their play and learning opportunities. Already in RE the children have taken an interest in animals and have created a class vet where they are exploring literacy and numeracy skills in the play context. While in RA the children have been interested in and sharing many discussions about shops and shopping – so they have created a class shop where they are exploring aspects of numeracy and literacy. (A big thank you to all of the parents who have sent in 'junk' for the shop, please keep it coming we are using all of it!!)

Children in Reception have started daily focus numeracy and literacy games with their teachers where they are learning valuable skills to apply in their formal learning and in their play.

Reminders:

Home work in Reception: homework is sent home each Tuesday, we ask that you complete this with your child and ensure that it is returned to school by the next Monday.

Reading in Reception: reading with your child every night is possibly the most beneficial homework children can get, so we encourage you to read every night with your child! We are setting up a **Reception Readers Award** given to those children who have shown evidence that they have been reading something every night with their family.

Back door: please remember to use the back door when delivering your child to Reception and when collecting them in the afternoon. As the children are gaining independence and taking care of their own belongings in school, we ask that you allow your child to remove their own coat and organise their own belongings in their trays and enter the classroom on their own.

Parent's day: we are pleased to announce that we will be conducting Bring a Parent to School Day where family members get the opportunity to come to school with their reception child for the morning and engage activities and learning alongside their child. Thursday Feb 11th.