

RECEPTION Classroom News

Avondale
Primary School
W/C – 18.09.23



Dear Parents/Carers

THE WEEK AHEAD

This week as part of our Pirate topic we will be telling and sequencing the story "We're Going on a Treasure Hunt". Pupils will be encouraged to use their oracy and drama skills to retell the story using words and actions. We will also create a large class story map to help us retell the story in order.

In Maths, we will begin to explore the numicon pieces – learning the colour and action for each piece. We will also focus on our daily calendar, learning the days of the week and talking about what happens during our day at school. We will be counting to find the correct date and making the date using numicon pieces.

This week during our daily phonic sessions we will commence with Phase 2 teaching of letters and sounds. Our focused letters this week are – s, a, t. We will learn the phoneme and grapheme for each letter, and practise our oral blending skills, which is a key skill for reading.

During circle time we will continue our Jigsaw Unit – Being Me in the World, and we will continue to share our All about Me Posters. We will also be reading the delightful story The Colour Monster and exploring the feeling of – happiness. We will talk about how we know someone is happy / how it feels to be happy, listen to happy music, discuss and draw things that make us happy and learn happy song.

Let's hope the sun shines and we can continue to enjoy our outdoor play area. We look forward to chatting with you over the coming days and weeks. If you have any urgent queries or questions, please don't hesitate to ask.

Have a lovely week.
The Reception Team



WE NEED YOUR HELP!



Does your child qualify for Free School Meals (FSM)?

If they do, it also means we, as a school, receive extra funding to enable us to support your child's learning. Last year we received around £172,000 of additional funding. We use this to provide extra teachers, support staff and family support staff. We also fund school trips for those who are eligible.

You qualify for FSM if you are in receipt of income support.

If you think this applies to you you will need to fill out a form on the BWD council website. You can also contact school and we can assist you with this.

Mrs Morgan, our Pupil Premium Lead, will be available at our Reception drop-in sessions on Tuesday 12th September and Wednesday 20th September. Please come and speak to her if you think your child is eligible.

SHOW AND TELL

Next week we will be starting our 'Show and Tell' sessions on a Monday.

'Show and Tell' is a simple speaking and listening activity that we encourage all children to take part in. Children can bring in an item from home that they would like to show to the group and tell us about. This could be an interesting object, some artwork, a favourite storybook, a souvenir from a trip, an award or maybe a photograph. Please encourage your child to practise what they are going to say at home first.

Children do not need to bring in an item every week but we would like each child to take part. We do discourage children from bringing in a different toy every week unless they have something specific to share about it.

Please ensure that any items that are precious or irreplaceable are not brought into school, unless they have been discussed with a member of staff first.



Reward Points



Last week we will introduce the children to our whole school reward system. Every child will be given their own little dojo monster. When they demonstrate good behaviour, or one of our Avondale values, they receive a reward point on the dojo chart. At the end of each week any pupil that has received 10 reward points or more is rewarded with certificate. Every Friday, the two pupils with the most reward points are presented with the Reception Dojo Trophy and can choose a prize from the Reception prize box. Platinum certificates are also awarded to pupils who consistently demonstrate good behaviour. Children are rewarded for consistent good behaviour during each half term with a Golden Time Fun session.

[Please click on this link to read more about promoting positive behaviour within the Reception unit.](#)

Gardeners and Seeds



Last year we introduced a very successful buddy system between the children in Reception and Year 6. Our Year 6 children will become 'Gardeners' each receiving a 'Seed' to nurture and grow.

We are hopeful that this won't just be beneficial for the 'Seeds' in providing a role model and new friend to help and support them as they start primary school but that it will help our older pupils understand how important they are, as an individual, within our school context.

Last week, your child met and had lunch their 'Gardener' and they have spent some time together in the reception unit. We have other activities planned over the coming weeks including reading books together, playing games and spending time together at lunchtime.

RECEPTION DROP-IN SESSION / OPEN CLASSROOM

This week we will be holding our second Reception drop-in session. This session will be held straight after school and is very informal. Reception staff are available should you wish to come and say hello, have a chat about your child or just look around the classroom.

The date for our Reception drop-in session is:

·Wednesday 20th September at 3.15-4.00pm

PHONICS IN RECEPTION



At Avondale we use a systematic phonics planning programme titled Red Rose Letters and Sounds. Phonics is taught daily and children are given the opportunity to consolidate the skills taught through continuous provision.

What is phonics?

·Phonics is a method of learning to read. Phonics works by breaking each word up into individual sounds before blending those sounds back together to make the word. Children learn to 'decode' words by breaking it down into sounds Children are taught to first listen very carefully for sounds, then read letters or groups of letters by saying the sound(s) they represent.

What key skills do they learn in phonics?·Oral blending and segmenting ·Learning the letter sounds ·Letter formation ·Blending and segmenting words ·Tricky words

Please click on these links to read more about the teaching of phonics in Reception.

[Phonics in Reception](#)

[Phase 2 Letters and Sounds](#)

[Phase 3 Letters and Sounds](#)

Later this term we will be holding a Phonic Curriculum workshop for parents. More details about this will be sent next next.



Home Reading



Last week we commenced with home reading and your child should have brought home their reading folder. As of yet the children have not been allocated a reading group, however we do want the children to get into the routine of taking books home, sharing them with parents and returning their books to school every day.



- Each week as part of our home reading programme your child will receive-**
- **two schemed books (either a discussion book or a decodable book) – sent home every Monday**
 - **one library book (to share with an adult for pleasure) – sent home every Friday**



Schemed Books consist of either discussion books or decodable books.

Discussion Books - Initially, your child will bring home a discussion book, meaning they are wordless. However, these books are very important to your child's reading development. Early books allow children to learn how stories work, including the order and direction in which they read, without the pressure of words on the page. The focus is comprehension skills not reading skills. Children will enjoy talking about the story and discussing what is happening in the pictures. The pictures provide lots of opportunities to develop vocabulary, and also play with environmental sounds, which is an important first step in the teaching of phonics.

Below are some activities and ideas you may want to try when sharing these discussion books with your child:

- Respond to your child's ideas by repeating them back and introducing new words to increase their vocabulary.
- Look at the front cover and read the title to your child. Ask them what they think the story will be about? Relate the title back to your child i.e. 'The lost gloves' Have they ever lost anything? or 'Puddles' What do you do when you see a puddle?
 - Allow your child to turn the pages of the book and describe what they see in the pictures. You could take it in turns to tell a page of the story. Encouraging pupils to turn their own pages is also great for developing fine motor control!
- Encourage your child to add sounds to accompany the action in story and talk about any sounds that might be found in the story setting i.e. 'Feed the Birds' what sounds might you hear outside?
- Once you have finished sharing the book ask your child to retell the story in their own words i.e. What happened first? What happened next? How did the story end?
 - Did they enjoy the book? Why?
 - Ask your child to point to different things on the page e.g. the angry man.

Decodable Books - These are simple stories constructed using almost exclusively words that are phonetically decodable, using letters and letter-groups that children have learned during phonic lessons. Parents can worry that these books are not 'challenging', but the decodable books are designed to reinforce and consolidate the learning that has taken place in class. Pupils will receive a decodable book as soon as they can confidently recognise and blend some of the phase 2 sounds to read simple words - this stage will be different for all children. We will commence phase 2 phonic teaching this week.

Library Books - In addition to reading scheme books, all children will bring home a library book. This will be a book that they have selected and that interests them. These books will be much more challenging, and there is no expectation for pupils to read these books themselves. We ask that parents share the reading or read this book to their child. These books are a great opportunity to discuss any new words and knowledge, so parents should discuss the content and meaning. Reception library day will be every Friday and library books should be returned the following Friday.

HOME READING DIARY

At Avondale, we ask parents/carers to practise reading with their child **5 TIMES EACH WEEK FOR 10 minutes**. Eventually this might include -

- Reading their home reading books (schemed books)
 - Practising letter sounds
 - Practising tricky words
 - Sharing a bedtime story
 - Sharing their library book

Please date and sign your child's reading diary each time you hear them read. Please ensure your child brings their reading folder (reading book and home reading diary) to school every day. Reading books will only be changed if their reading diary has been signed.

READING REWARDS

Every week pupils who read 5 times each week will receive 5 rewards points and their names are entered into our Reception reading raffle.