

RECEPTION Classroom News

Avondale
Primary School
W/C – 09.09.24



Dear Parents/Carers

THE WEEK AHEAD

This week, we will begin to introduce the pupils to our Reception rules and routines. In Reception, we work as a unit and pupils have access to continuous provision across both rooms. We will be showing the pupils the different areas across the unit and then setting them the challenge of completing activities in targeted areas.

We will begin to learn about our school. We will learn about the different rooms within school and what these are used for. We will go on a tour around school, visiting each room in turn and getting our Avondale school passports stamped! During the week we will meet members of staff and learn about their jobs and how they help us in school. We will also find our school using Google maps and look at key features around Avondale.

Our first Jigsaw session is titled – It's Good to be Me! During this session we will learn that just like toys were all different: we are UNIQUE. In some ways we are the same but in others we are different. That is what makes our world/school a wonderful place to be.

On Friday, we will have our first PE session. Please ensure your child has their PE kit in school and all items of clothing are clearly labelled. Thank you.

Please remember that on Wednesday 11th September at 3.15pm (until 4pm) we will hold our first reception drop-in / open classroom. These sessions are very informal and held straight after school. Members of the Reception staff will be available so please come along and say hello, have a chat about your child or just look around our amazing Reception unit.

Have a lovely week.
The Reception Team



Morning and End of Day Routines

A good routine will help your child gain confidence and quickly settle into school. We ask that you make every effort to bring your child to school every day and collect them on time. Please enter school via the Reception gate on Durham Road, where you will be greeted by a member of staff. Our Reception doors open from 8.35am and the school day commences at 8.45am, after this the Reception doors will be locked. If your child arrives after this time, then for safety reasons they must enter school via the main office and receive their attendance mark.

When collecting your child at the end of the school day please wait in the Reception play area (not under the shutter area). At home time all pupils wait safely in the classroom until a member of staff can see their collector and then their name is called and they are released. Pupils will only be released to people named on the pupil collection data sheet or if they can provide your collection password. If there is a change to who will be collecting your child please inform school ASAP, and ensure they know your collection password.

To support us until we start to recognise everyone, please tell us who you are and who you are collecting. As you can appreciate home time is a very busy time so if you would like to speak to a member of the reception staff, please wait until all children have been safely collected.

Please could we also ask that before and after school, children do not play with the resources under the Reception shutter area.

Thank you for your support.

PIRATES IN SCHOOL

Our first topic this half term is Pirates in School! First, we will be exploring the question - **Where Am I?** The children will explore and learn about their new school environment, and the location of different rooms. They will learn about who works in our school, where they work and how they help us in school. They will follow a map and go on a tour of the school, visiting the different rooms and meeting members of staff. Our focused text is **We're Going on a Treasure Hunt**. The pupils will learn to sequence and retell this story using words and actions.



On **THURSDAY 17TH OCTOBER**, to celebrate the end of this topic, we will have a **Reception Pirate Day** – the pupils can come to school dressed as pirates. We will have lots of fun pirate games and activities, and we will follow a special trail around school to find the hidden treasure!

[Please click on the link for more details about this topic.](#)

PSED - JIGSAW

The first theme which we will cover during circle time is titled – **Being Me in My World**.

- Session 1 – Who... Me? During this session we learn how it feels to belong and that we are all similar and different.
- Session 2 – How am I feeling today? – We will think about our feelings and begin to learn how to manage these.
- Session 3 – Being at School – We will explore how we can all work together to make our school a good place to be.
- Session 4 – Gentle Hands – Links with our school value of kindness. We learn about why it is good to be kind and we learn about good and bad hands.
- Session 5 – Our Rights – We will learn how everyone has a right and we all have a right to play and learn.
- Session 6 – Our Responsibilities – We will learn what being responsible means

ALL ABOUT ME SHEETS

Please could we ask that all pupils bring to school their **All About Me** sheet and a photo/s of their family, as over the next couple of weeks we will be sharing these during circle time. If you need another copy of the **All About Me** sheet, please just ask.

Jewellery

The only items of jewellery that are allowed in school are small stud earrings, which must be removed OR covered up for PE on Friday.

DOJO REWARD POINTS

This 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 at the end of each half term with a **Golden Time Fun** session.

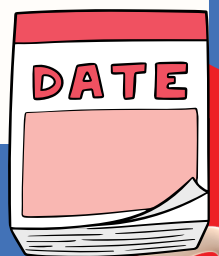
[Please click on this link to read more about behaviour within the Reception unit.](#)

DATES FOR THIS WEEK

This year we will continue to run our very successful Reception drop-in sessions. These sessions are held straight after school and are 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 first Reception drop-in session this half term is -

- Wednesday 11th September at 3.15pm (until 4pm)





Home Reading



This 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 next 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**.

This should include –

- Reading their home reading books (schemed books)

In addition this might include –

- 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.