

# Stanbridge Lower School



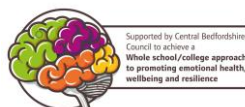
## Class Letter – Year Reception

Autumn Term 1 2023

Welcome	I would like to take this opportunity to welcome your child to Reception Class. The children have settled very well over the last week and are responding well to new routines. It has been lovely to watch them enjoy the provision and begin to form new friendships.																		
Staffing Update	I got married over the summer and my new name is Mrs Golby. The learning support assistants working in reception this year will be Mrs Felstead, Miss Llewellyn. Miss Benesch will be based in Year 1 but she will occasionally be coming back down to work with Reception children.																		
Learning Focus	<p><u>Nature Topics</u></p> <p>This half term our weekly topics are; Owls, Apples, Mushrooms, Leaves, Sticks and Darkness. Through our topics the children will be learning about key areas of Understanding the World, such as harvest, the natural world, seasonal changes and people, cultures and communities. They will be learning to observe and talk about the natural changes of trees and weather through Autumn as well as considering how and why some animals hibernate. Through these topics the children will develop their understanding and communication skills, learn and be able to use new key vocabulary and have opportunities to explore their learning through play and artistic expression.</p> <p>They will engage in literacy and numeracy activities linked to our topics and learn new art processes as well as join in with cookery activities. The children will also explore our topics through forest school experiences. The children will be developing their gross and fine motor skills through planned activities in provision and free play continuously across the week.</p> <p><u>Phonics</u></p> <p>We are following the Little Wandle phonics scheme and have found it to have a very positive impact on the children's ability to learn phonics and begin reading fluently. We will be inviting reception parents into school on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> September at 2:45pm for a phonics workshop and to explain what your child's phonics homework will look like. Below is the Autumn 1 phonics coverage</p> <table><tr><td></td><td>Phase 2 Graphemes</td><td>New Common exception words</td></tr><tr><td>Week 1</td><td>s a t p</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Week 2</td><td>i n m d</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Week 3</td><td>g o c k</td><td>is</td></tr><tr><td>Week 4</td><td>ck e u r</td><td>I</td></tr><tr><td>Week 5</td><td>h b f l</td><td>the</td></tr></table>		Phase 2 Graphemes	New Common exception words	Week 1	s a t p		Week 2	i n m d		Week 3	g o c k	is	Week 4	ck e u r	I	Week 5	h b f l	the
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## Learning News

### Reading

As part of our phonics scheme the children will be reading their book in class 3 x week. This will also be the same book that they will bring home to read with you. During the class reading sessions, your children will be learning to blend, develop sight reading and fluency and be able to answer questions about the story and make predictions.

### Maths

We use the White Rose maths scheme of learning in Reception. Across this half term our maths topics will be; Match, sort and compare and Talk about measure and patterns. Early maths will focus on use of provision to support key early maths and routines. The children will be exploring maths in a 'concrete' way. Concrete is using what the children already know and building upon it in a tangible way. In reception we explore maths through discussion e.g. "Well, there are three here and two here, so there must be five." As well as through practical activity. Children will learn maths skills through structured whole class sessions, small group work and individual sessions. Adults will also introduce maths concepts with the children through their play.

### Floor book

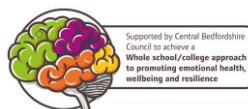
In reception, we like to show our learning through our class floor book. The floor book will be filled with photographs of the children engaging in learning activities, examples of work they have completed and written or annotated vocabulary and comments they have used and learnt linked to our topics. In future weeks, the children will enjoy looking back on their learning with their friends and engage in discussions about what they discover. Adults will also add some of the children's thoughts and comments through writing on speech bubbles and labels which will be added in to the floor book. This is a great opportunity for the children to consider and reflect on their past experiences at school.

### Helicopter stories

In reception, we use 'helicopter stories' to develop literacy and communication skills. Initially, the children will tell their story ideas for an adult to annotate and draw a matching picture. The adult will read the stories and if they wish the children will perform them with/to their friends. We find that this technique encourages a love of story-telling, builds self-confidence and promotes the children to write independently when they have the skills to do so.



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## Homework

### Reading

On Friday the children will be sent home with a book that they are reading in class for them to practice reading with you at home. The other book that will go home with your child is a sharing book, some of the words in this book might be unknown to your child and they may need help to read it. It is very important that these books are returned to school the following Friday so that it can be used by another child the following week.

As your child has read the book three times already they may read some words fluently, other children may need time to segment and blend the individual words. We aim for the children to develop their fluency and to be able to answer simple questions about vocabulary and make predictions.

In their reading record will be a list of words that the children have learnt to segment and blend each week; please could they practise reading these words; either fluently or segmenting and blending.

### Phonics homework will be set from Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September

Your child will have a phonics homework book and will be given 4 letter sounds to learn each Friday, matching what they have learnt in school that week. Please make sure your child has their phonics homework book in school every Friday.

Support your child to recognise the letter sounds and say them aloud. For each sound, encourage your child to think of 3-4 words containing that sound, draw a picture matching one of the words and list these words on the lined section of the page.

To begin with, the words will be written in highlighter or in black cursive by myself for your child to overwrite/underwrite but as the year progresses your child should be able to think of and write words themselves. As your child progresses, they will be asked to use a selection of the words to independently write 1 or 2 sentences. These are to be written in pencil on the lined pages of the book provided. We have been using this method of spelling homework with the children for several years now and have found it to be very successful in allowing the children to make good progress with their phonic knowledge.

To consolidate their knowledge of all the Phase 2, 3 and 4 phonic sounds, there will often be weeks when we recap sounds previously covered.

### Poem

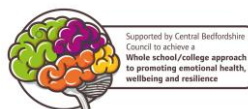
Each week, your child will be given a poem to learn by heart at home. The poem will be linked to our nature topics and children will be learning it in class daily. These won't always be at the matching reading level to your child so please read it to them if they are struggling. The poems will be found inside the reading record.

### Communication Book

Your child will be sent home with a red communication book. This is for you to write down any information that we might need to be made aware of. It's also an opportunity for you to ask any questions. I will be reading the communication books each Friday.



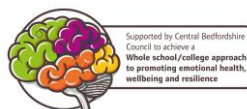
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<b>PE lessons</b>	In Reception, the children will participate in lots of physical activities. Many of these will be through active play rather than in structured PE lessons. These may be inside, but many will be out on the playground, school field or in our outdoor area. From January, we will begin structured PE lessons on Wednesday afternoons. Children can wear their comfortable and practical clothing that they have on from Forest school in their PE lessons.
<b>Forest Schools &amp; Non Uniform</b>	<p>Forest school sessions will be every Wednesday am at our Woodland Garden on the school field. We look forward to running these sessions and know that the children will enjoy the freedom of being in our forest garden. They will have the opportunity of using tools safely, they will learn to identify plants and flowers, explore the setting and use colour cards to match coloured natural objects. They will also be able to experience cooking food on a fire and making dens. We have tyres, a mud kitchen and tarpaulins and sticks for the children to explore up at the site.</p> <p>On Forest School days, children do not need to wear school uniform; they can wear comfortable, practical clothing to suit the environment and weather. This may consist of a t-shirt, shorts and trainers and as the weather gets colder you may also want to provide them with a tracksuit top and bottoms. If children do not have suitable kit, they may not be able to join in with certain activities. <b>We will provide waterproof suits for wet days.</b></p> <p><b>Please can your child also have a pair of wellies in school at all times, as we like to go for walks and take part in outdoor learning and forest school in all weathers!</b></p> <p><b>If your child does not have slippers in school please may you send some in, thank you.</b></p>
<b>Library</b>	Library books are changed on a Friday please.
<b>Dates for your diary</b>	<p><b>Phonics Information Session:</b> 2:45pm Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2023</p> <p><b>Parent Consultations</b> are on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> October; these run slightly different to the rest of the school, as we like to give parents the opportunity to see our young children in their learning environment.</p> <p>Parents are invited into the classroom from 2.30pm to share in their child's learning, look at books and informally discuss how your child has settled in. However, if you would like a formal parent consultation after school in addition to this, you will have the option to book an appointment.</p> <p>For any other queries, you are welcome to catch me at the Reception gate, send me an email or request a phone call. The communication book is a good tool for communicating less urgent messages, these will be looked at by me every Friday.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Mrs Golby - Reception class teacher</p>



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