

RECEPTION NEWSLETTER

Autumn 1 2018

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Reception. At the start of each half term we will share useful information and tips with you so that you can prepare and support your child at home. A copy of this letter will also be available on the school website. We ask that you check and empty your child's book bag every day in order to receive important correspondence from the school.

General Information

Punctuality:

All children are expected to line up in the playground at 8:55am. Registration across the school finishes at 9.10am. It is very important for children to be in school on time so that learning time is maximised, and also so that children are not unsettled by arriving late and missing lesson time. We appreciate your cooperation in this.

Collection:

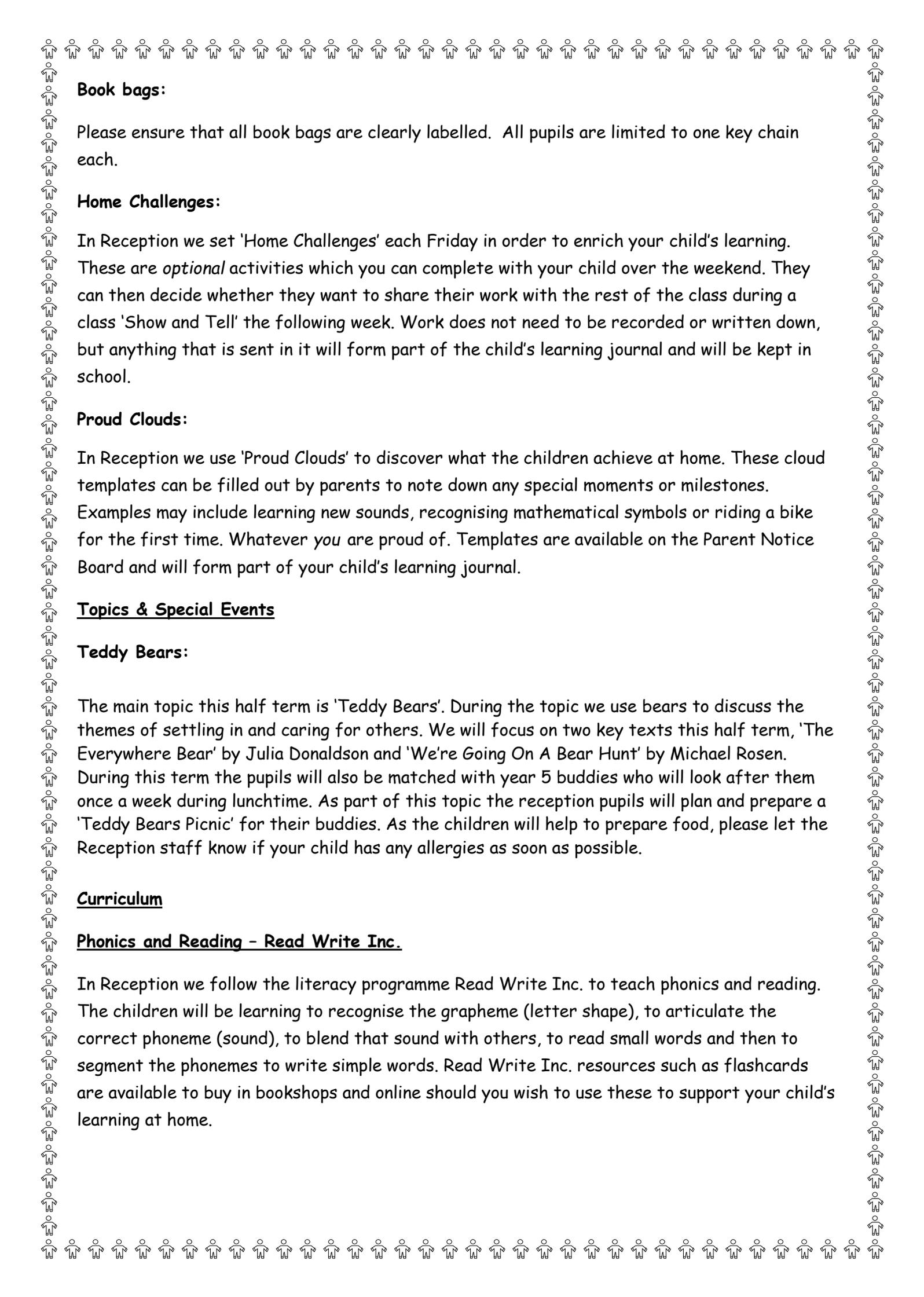
- Please drop off and collect your children by the Infants Playground entrance. The gate next to the coach will be locked to ensure the school premise is safe and secure.
- All outside play equipment is tidied away at 2.45pm, please therefore discourage pupils and younger siblings from playing with school toys and resources at the end of the day.
- If you wish for another adult to collect your child from school let the Reception staff know either by telephone message or a message in your child's book bag.

Illness:

If your child suffers from any sickness or diarrhoea, they must be kept off from school for **24 hours** in order to contain any viruses.

Uniform:

- Children can dress in summer or winter uniform until the end of half term, please check the weather in advance to ensure they are dressed suitably.
- All children should have a full P.E. in school at all times. This includes a school tracksuit, polo shirt, navy blue shorts and blue, black or white plimsolls or trainers. Please practise dressing and undressing with your child as much as possible, this ensures that the children can enjoy their P.E time each week.
- Hair: Girls should have their hair tied back at all times. Please note that hair accessories are only permitted in navy, white or black.
- Jewellery: reminder that girls' earrings must be small gold studs only, no other jewellery is permitted.



Book bags:

Please ensure that all book bags are clearly labelled. All pupils are limited to one key chain each.

Home Challenges:

In Reception we set 'Home Challenges' each Friday in order to enrich your child's learning. These are *optional* activities which you can complete with your child over the weekend. They can then decide whether they want to share their work with the rest of the class during a class 'Show and Tell' the following week. Work does not need to be recorded or written down, but anything that is sent in it will form part of the child's learning journal and will be kept in school.

Proud Clouds:

In Reception we use 'Proud Clouds' to discover what the children achieve at home. These cloud templates can be filled out by parents to note down any special moments or milestones. Examples may include learning new sounds, recognising mathematical symbols or riding a bike for the first time. Whatever you are proud of. Templates are available on the Parent Notice Board and will form part of your child's learning journal.

Topics & Special Events

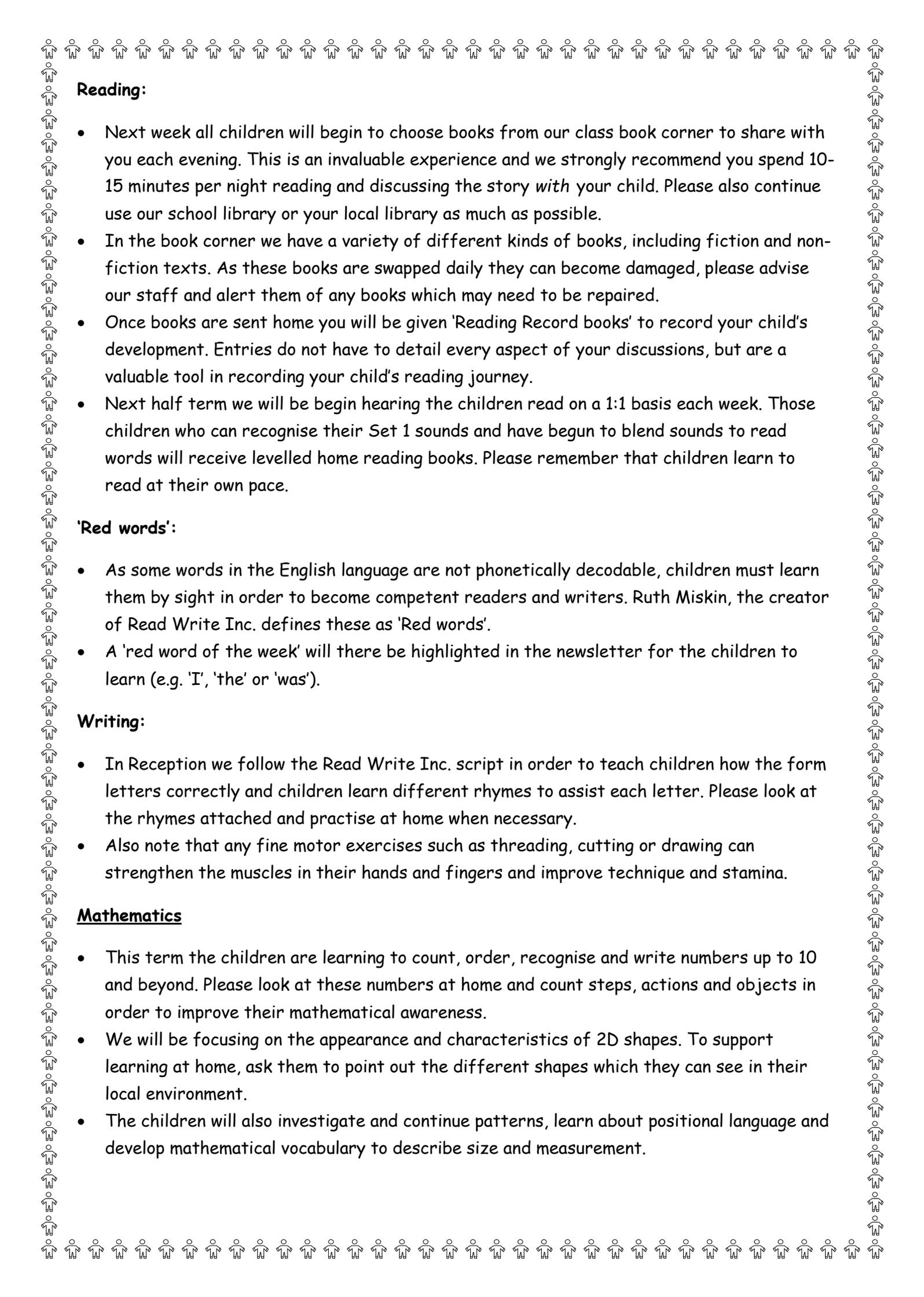
Teddy Bears:

The main topic this half term is 'Teddy Bears'. During the topic we use bears to discuss the themes of settling in and caring for others. We will focus on two key texts this half term, 'The Everywhere Bear' by Julia Donaldson and 'We're Going On A Bear Hunt' by Michael Rosen. During this term the pupils will also be matched with year 5 buddies who will look after them once a week during lunchtime. As part of this topic the reception pupils will plan and prepare a 'Teddy Bears Picnic' for their buddies. As the children will help to prepare food, please let the Reception staff know if your child has any allergies as soon as possible.

Curriculum

Phonics and Reading - Read Write Inc.

In Reception we follow the literacy programme Read Write Inc. to teach phonics and reading. The children will be learning to recognise the grapheme (letter shape), to articulate the correct phoneme (sound), to blend that sound with others, to read small words and then to segment the phonemes to write simple words. Read Write Inc. resources such as flashcards are available to buy in bookshops and online should you wish to use these to support your child's learning at home.



Reading:

- Next week all children will begin to choose books from our class book corner to share with you each evening. This is an invaluable experience and we strongly recommend you spend 10-15 minutes per night reading and discussing the story *with* your child. Please also continue use our school library or your local library as much as possible.
- In the book corner we have a variety of different kinds of books, including fiction and non-fiction texts. As these books are swapped daily they can become damaged, please advise our staff and alert them of any books which may need to be repaired.
- Once books are sent home you will be given 'Reading Record books' to record your child's development. Entries do not have to detail every aspect of your discussions, but are a valuable tool in recording your child's reading journey.
- Next half term we will be begin hearing the children read on a 1:1 basis each week. Those children who can recognise their Set 1 sounds and have begun to blend sounds to read words will receive levelled home reading books. Please remember that children learn to read at their own pace.

'Red words':

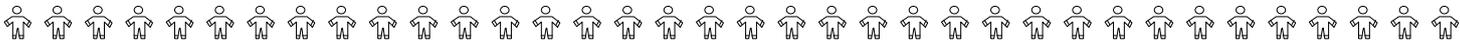
- As some words in the English language are not phonetically decodable, children must learn them by sight in order to become competent readers and writers. Ruth Miskin, the creator of Read Write Inc. defines these as 'Red words'.
- A 'red word of the week' will there be highlighted in the newsletter for the children to learn (e.g. 'I', 'the' or 'was').

Writing:

- In Reception we follow the Read Write Inc. script in order to teach children how the form letters correctly and children learn different rhymes to assist each letter. Please look at the rhymes attached and practise at home when necessary.
- Also note that any fine motor exercises such as threading, cutting or drawing can strengthen the muscles in their hands and fingers and improve technique and stamina.

Mathematics

- This term the children are learning to count, order, recognise and write numbers up to 10 and beyond. Please look at these numbers at home and count steps, actions and objects in order to improve their mathematical awareness.
- We will be focusing on the appearance and characteristics of 2D shapes. To support learning at home, ask them to point out the different shapes which they can see in their local environment.
- The children will also investigate and continue patterns, learn about positional language and develop mathematical vocabulary to describe size and measurement.



We hope you have found this information useful. If you require further advice, have any questions or would like to discuss your child we will always make ourselves available to you by appointment before or after school.

Thank you for your cooperation.

The Reception Team

