



Robin's class- Reception Newsletter Tales from the Harvest

Dear Parents or Carers,

We hope you had a lovely summer. Mrs Johnson and I are so pleased to welcome our new Reception children into Robin's class and begin their school journey. The children are all so keen to get started, which is so lovely to see, and we are excited for the year ahead.



This term, our theme is "Tales from the Harvest." The children will be learning about farming, the changing seasons, and harvest celebrations through stories, songs, art, and plenty of hands-on activities. We will explore how farming shapes our lives and encourage curiosity about the world around us. Reception learning is built around play-based exploration. This allows children to follow their interests while developing key early skills in communication, social interaction, and independence.

As you will see, your child has brought home a number of items to share with you on a daily basis to support their learning. This letter will explain what we do in school and how you can help at home with a daily reading routine.

Reading books:

As you may have seen your child will have a reading book and a reading diary. We ask you to share the books with your child and listen to them sounding out and reading the words. In Robin's class we start our reading journey with lilac picture books that you will find in your book bag. These are useful to help children invent the story for themselves just by looking at the pictures. In week 3 (this week) we will start our word books, these will have the sounds in that we have learned so far. This stage in the reading scheme introduces books with decodable words. To decode and read the words in the books, we will be teaching the children the process of blending; this is a process of saying the sounds in a word and then blending them together to make the word: c-a-t. It would be beneficial to use this process at home whilst reading as well. Some of the books also use repetition of tricky words that the children will sight read (words that cannot be sounded out) encouraging your child to remember words that they have seen before.

You can discuss the story and pictures; talk about what they liked best about the story, how the characters might be feeling, why things might have happened and what might happen next before they turn the page. Reading regularly really does make a difference and will help your child make progress. We change books on a Monday and a Thursday if they have been read. We encourage children to re-read books to develop confidence and say that it is best to re-read 3 times over. There is space for you to write any comments from the reading that your child is doing at home. This is really helpful for us to know how they are getting on at home and so that we know when to change them.



A Sharing Book (story book):

Your child will not be able to read this on their own. This book is for you both to read and enjoy together. In order to encourage your child to become a lifelong reader, it is important that they learn to read for pleasure. The sharing book is a book they have chosen for you to enjoy together. Please remember that you shouldn't expect your child to read this alone. Read it to or with them. Discuss the pictures, enjoy the story, predict what might happen next, use different voices for the characters, explore the facts in a non-fiction book. The main thing is that you have fun!

A Library Book:

You will also receive an application form from our local library bus, which visits the school every other Thursday. This form is to apply for a library card. Once your child has their card, they will be able to borrow books from the library bus during its visits. Library books can be easily identified by a library note inside the book.

Phonics Sound Book

On Monday, we will start to learn our letters and sounds using our Little Wandle scheme; this involves learning to read and write 4 sounds a week. In phonics the main sounds of English are taught, not the alphabet letters. As the sounds are taught, they are stuck into a Sound Book that will be brought home. If possible, please go through the Sound Book with your child regularly-practising reading and writing the sounds.

Phonics Home Learning Booklet

You will also find a home learning booklet in your child's book bag from next week. This booklet shows the phonics sounds we will be learning each week. Sharing this learning at home helps children feel proud of their achievements, encourages their curiosity, and makes learning even more exciting.

Our Topic:

This term, our topic is "Tales from the Harvest", where we will be exploring Autumn. The children will learn about seasonal changes, farming in the Autumn, and what happens in nature at this time of year, including hibernating animals. While we have this overall theme, we also follow the children's interests and curiosities, weaving these into our weekly learning. This approach helps to create a rich and engaging environment where learning feels meaningful and exciting.

In addition to our topic, we will celebrate a wide range of seasonal and religious festivals throughout the year, including Diwali, Harvest, Christmas, Chinese New Year, Easter, and Holi.

Our routine:

We start off each morning by saying hello and talking about the day ahead with calendar pig. We talk about what date it is, what day of the week it is, the month and what the weather is like. We use this months of the year song to sing along to: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fe9bnYRzFvk>

Our days of the week song is to the theme tune of the Adams family! (Just in case you wanted to have a go at singing at home too)

We then start our phonics and learn our new sound of the day and practice our writing and reading. After this we have play time with the rest of the school and come back in for story time and to do our Maths or Literacy lessons (we alternate these days). We also have Discovery Time woven throughout our morning- these are special parts of our day where children choose their own activities and explore in our classroom and outdoor areas. It is child-led learning, which means the children decide what they would like to do, while adults join in, support, and extend their learning.

In the afternoons:

In the afternoons we focus on our topic learning and also have plenty of Discovery Time. We also have weekly RE, PSED, Forest School and Music sessions, where children explore different faiths, traditions, and celebrations, and enjoy singing, rhythm, and music-making activities. These sessions help the children connect their learning across the curriculum while developing creativity and understanding of the world around them.

Personal, Social & Emotional Development (PSED)

PSED stands for Personal, Social, and Emotional Development. In Reception, we focus on helping children understand their feelings, build relationships, and learn to work and play cooperatively with others.

We have lovely circle times each day where children can share their thoughts, talk about their feelings, and listen to others. In addition, we have these weekly focused PSED sessions where we explore specific topics. This term, we are learning about "Me and My Relationships." These sessions help children develop confidence, empathy, and social skills in a supportive and nurturing environment.

Forest School

Each week, children will take part in Forest School sessions with Mrs Wilson. They will explore nature, observe seasonal changes, and join in activities such as den-building, cooking on the fire, and using tools safely. These sessions are a wonderful way to build curiosity, confidence, and teamwork.

We are so pleased to see the children's enthusiasm as they begin their school journey. Thank you for your support- together, we will make this a joyful and exciting first year at school.

Best wishes,
Miss Gill

