

Windmill Primary School

Reception Curriculum Newsletter
Autumn 1 2017 Me and my Community



Dear Parents/Carers,

We can't believe we are looking forward to another intake already! We are really excited about getting to welcome all of the children to Windmill Primary School to begin their learning journey with them. You may be aware as your child begins in Reception at Windmill Primary School your child will participate in Baseline assessment. Please do not worry; after lots of intensive research we have carefully selected a baseline package which is very child friendly, and works in a way that we would normally carry out activities in the classroom as a child first starts school. Our experience tells us that the children love to participate in the activities on offer and often ask when they can have a turn. If you have any queries about this please do not hesitate to speak to your child's class teacher.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

During your child's first term at Windmill Primary School, we will be spending a lot of time ensuring that your child settles fully in to school life quickly. It is important to us that your child is happy at school in order for them to learn. It will be a very busy term as your child adapts to all the changes and making many new friends but in no time at all they will show you just how much they enjoy school life!

Me and my Community – Understanding the World

Our theme for Autumn 1 is Me and my Community where we will be getting to grips school life and meeting some key local people in the community such as police officers and fire fighters. This will give the children the opportunity to really think about all the people around them that can help them when they are out and about.



Communication, Language and Literacy

In English, the children will soon be introduced to their Read, Write, Inc sessions where they learn phonic sounds in order to help them learn to read and write. Initially these sessions are kept short and the children learn a letter sound a day. The children love these lessons and it is a lively and positive way to learn. Regular practise of these and blending sounds together both in and out of school is essential. Your child will bring home a phonics pack daily (which should also be returned to school each day) and these are regularly updated with the sounds that your child is currently learning. It would also be great if you could explore books with your child at home and talk about the texts you have shared. If we could ask that as much reading is happening at home as possible, as ever it doesn't matter what is being read as long as it is something that your child enjoys. Reading is not just about looking at books; early reading skills develop from recognising familiar logos and signs in the environment. Spotting these when you are out and about with your child helps to develop their reading skills in a fun way!



Maths

In maths, we will be focussing on recognising and ordering numbers to 10 and then 20, as well as practising our counting. The children will also be learning about length and the name of 2d and 3d shapes. Please support your child with recognising and naming common 2d shapes in the environment.

Expressive Arts and Design

These areas of learning will be closely linked with our Theme Me and my Community, where the children will be painting pictures of themselves, their family and the people who they think are important in their community. The children will also of course be given lots of opportunities to explore arts and design in any way they choose.

Interactive Learning Diary

Welcome to the Interactive Learning Diary! This is an online tool that we use to track your child's progress at school. We love the ILD as it builds such a rich picture of your child's first year at school. Once the children are fully settled in school in September we will invite you to a meeting about this, and how you as a parent play such an important role contributing to your child's learning journey during their first year of school life!

Key Dates: -see attached sheet

Overview of Reception themes for the rest of the year and approximate costs for enrichment

Autumn 1	Me and my Community – This term we are hoping to have visitors in from the Police, Fire Brigade and Ambulance service to talk to the children about their role in the community.
Autumn 2	Once upon a time/Christmas –During this term we hope to walk the children down to the Church to celebrate Christmas time. We also plan on taking the children to the library and registering them to enable all children to have access to lots of books and resources that they can borrow. We hope to make these library visits a termly event.
Spring 1	Dinosaurs – We are hoping that we will be able to find a visitor that will come into school to show and talk about lots of different fossils.
Spring 2	Fantastic Fantasy Worlds – We are planning on having lots of fun this term with lots of our learning based upon Superheroes – We will even be making our own Superhero pants!
Summer 1	Alive and Kicking – We are really excited about this term as we embark on lots of learning about nature and animals. We plan to take the children on a trip to the Zoo, this will cost approximately £18. We will also be embarking on Nature walks in the local area.
Summer 2	Seasides, Pirates and Mermaids – Finally as we approach our final term we are planning on creating lots of fun adventures in school and building our own little seaside that we can have lots of fun in!

Thank you for choosing Windmill Primary School for your child. We are confident they are about to embark on the most amazing journey of their lifetime! Have a great summer and send us a postcard on your travels. We look forward to seeing you in the Autumn term!

Mrs Frost
Reception Phase Leader

Miss Loasby
Reception Teacher