



Fishbourne C E Primary School

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Headteacher: Mrs N Day MA (Ed)
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Dear Reception Families,

Welcome to your first Reception Class newsletter! You will receive one of these each term, giving you an insight into what your child has been learning and sharing any helpful reminders and information.

We know that when your little ones start school, it can bring with it lots of different emotions for both you and your child. You should be incredibly proud of how wonderfully each and every one of them has settled in. At Fishbourne, we understand the importance of taking time to build strong relationships with our new classes. It has been such a joy to begin getting to know your children through lots of fun, play and exploration. We are already seeing their personalities shine, and we are looking forward to all the exciting learning and experiences ahead!

Meet the Reception Team

In Reception, we work as a job-share team. Mrs Bradshaw works on Mondays and Tuesdays, while Mrs Goodman works on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. We are also very lucky to have three wonderful Learning Support Assistants working alongside us: Mrs Whitaker, Miss Smith and Miss Craft. Together, we are looking forward to supporting your children as they begin this exciting journey through their first year of school!

Our first few days have been filled with lots of excitement as the children worked together to choose and vote for a name for their class family. We are delighted to announce that, the children have chosen to become **Jellyfish Class!** We think it is a wonderful name and are very excited to see all the adventures our Jellyfish Class will have together this year!



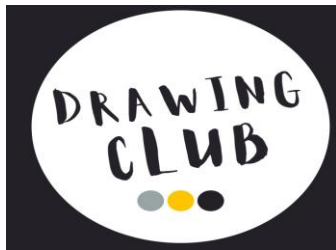
Phonics

We will soon be beginning to introduce the children to **Phonics**.

We use *Song of Sounds*, a dynamic and hands-on programme that makes phonics fun, interactive and engaging, with lots of catchy songs to help the children remember their sounds!

Each Friday, we will send home an information sheet sharing the sounds and words we have been practising in class that week. Please use this to practise the new sounds with your child and help to consolidate their learning at home.

We will talk more about how you can support your child with their developing phonics knowledge at our **Six Weeks In Meeting**. More information about this can be found later in this newsletter.



Drawing Club

Drawing Club is an exciting programme we use in Early Years that brings together stories, imagination, drawing and language. Each week, we use a book or tale as a 'portal' to spark a love of stories and encourage the children to **draw, discuss and create**.

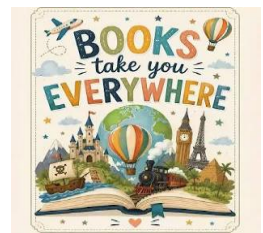
Your children will love the excitement of being part of Drawing Club, while developing the skills they need to become confident and independent writers. During our sessions, we will explore high-

quality texts and short extracts from films to inspire the children, encourage discussion and get their imaginations working! This will begin after half term.

A Love of Reading

Books are an essential part of life in Early Years and across Fishbourne Primary School. We believe that sharing stories and developing a love of reading from an early age is incredibly important.

We make time to enjoy books and stories together at many different points throughout the school day – whether this is during whole-class reading, Drawing Club, story time, phonics or school assemblies! We hope that through sharing a wide range of wonderful stories, the children will develop a lifelong love of books, reading and storytelling.



Reading at Home

Your child will soon begin bringing their first reading book home! These will be wordless picture books to begin with and they will then move on to books with words as and when they learn each new phonics sound. We encourage you to take time to enjoy the book together each day. Talk about the pictures, discuss what you can see and identify any sounds your child has already learnt.

Try to create a simple reading routine that works for your family, making sharing their reading book together an enjoyable part of each day.

Please take a look at the attached guidance for helpful tips on supporting your child with reading at home. We will talk more about this at our **Six Weeks In Meeting in October**, where there will be an opportunity to ask any questions you may have.

Please remember to write in your child's **Reading Sketchbook** each time they read at home. This helps us to see how they are getting on and celebrate their progress together.

Maths

During their Early Years, all of our maths learning is inspired by the work of the National Centre for Excellence in the Teaching of Mathematics (NCETM) and focuses on building a strong foundation in number sense.

Our curriculum aims to develop children who are confident, fluent and flexible in their understanding of numbers. Through lots of hands-on play and exploration, the children will develop their mathematical thinking using a range of practical resources and manipulatives.

Along the way, they will also meet some familiar and trusty friends – the Numberblocks! We know the children will have lots of fun exploring numbers, spotting patterns and developing their mathematical understanding through play.



Clay Fish

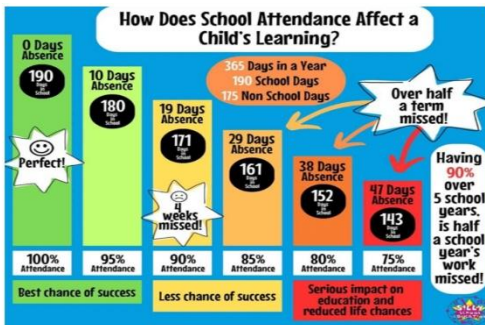
We have begun the exciting task of helping the children create their very own clay fish! Each fish will be completely unique, reflecting the creativity and individuality of its creator. Once finished, their beautiful creations will become part of our very own shoal, proudly displayed in the school entrance for everyone to enjoy. Their fish will remain there throughout their time at Fishbourne, all the way until they leave us in Year 6.

We hope the children will love looking back at their little fish over the years and remembering their very first days at Fishbourne!

Crew

Once the children are settled into school life, we begin to introduce the first elements of CREW and the power of starting the day together. Every morning, our children come together in their CREW groups of 10, creating a warm and supportive start to the day. Led by a CREW leader, these special moments give children time to connect, share, listen and get to know one another. We begin each CREW session by gathering together in a circle and responding to a simple question, idea or stimulus. Every child has the chance to have their voice heard and feel valued. These daily check-ins help children build friendships, develop confidence and create a strong sense of belonging within our school community. In Reception we begin the year by focusing on appreciations.

Attendance



We understand and appreciate that children can become unwell and sometimes need time at home to rest and recover. However, regular school attendance plays an important role in helping your child thrive. Being in school each day gives your child the opportunity to keep up with their learning, enjoy time with friends and feel a strong sense of belonging. Good attendance also helps children develop confidence, responsibility and positive habits that will support them both during their school years and in the future.

Useful Information

Labelling items

You would not believe how many jumpers, shoes, socks etc. disappear in Reception Class, please make sure you label everything so that we can make sure it comes back to the right family!

Water Bottles

Water bottles need to be named and in school every day. We have snack time each morning, this is a sociable time when the children sit down and enjoy a piece of fruit, which is provided. Please make sure that your child only brings water and not squash or juice.

Arriving at school

Please make sure you promptly arrive at school each morning so that your child does not miss any of their learning time. The gates open at 8.40 and close at 8.45am.

Seesaw

Seesaw is an online platform where we can share learning from home and school. Each Friday, a selection of pictures will be sent on Seesaw showing you what we have been up to in class that week! Please also send through anything you would like to show us from home too! This could be things like riding a bike, creating something, counting, writing etc. We will send home the QR codes to scan and sign up – any problems just let us know. There will also be a consent form coming home for you to sign so that you allow us to share photos of your child on this app.

PE

Our PE sessions will be on a Fridays please make sure PE bags are in school. During the first half term, we will be focusing on settling in team activities and then after half term we will move on to gymnastic fundamentals. You can help us by supporting the children to get

changed as independently as possible in the mornings so that they are ready for being able to do so by themselves at school!

In Reception, we love to be outside every day rain or shine so please make sure that your child has appropriate wet weather clothing suitable for all weather types.

Our new class email is jellyfish@fishbourneprimary.co.uk this email will be checked once daily during the school week, if it is urgent, please contact the school office.

Stay and Play

Last year, we introduced Stay and Play sessions to Reception, and they were a great success! We are delighted to be able to offer them again this year.

These sessions are a lovely opportunity for parents, grandparents or another special adult to come into the classroom and spend around 30 minutes enjoying some quality time playing and learning alongside your child.

There will be a Stay and Play session once every half term, giving you the chance to experience a little glimpse of your child's life in Reception and see the wonderful learning that takes place through play. We look forward to welcoming you into our classroom!

Important Dates

- o Autumnal Stay and Play Session – Thursday 1st October 2.40pm
- o Six weeks in Meeting – Wednesday 14th October – 2pm
- o Christmas Stay and Play Session – Tuesday 1st December – 9am

Many thanks for your support. If you have any questions or worries please come and see us.

Becca Goodman and Lauren Bradshaw