

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the start of Reception! The children all looked very smart and had a very happy first day at school on Wednesday. In this letter we would like to let you know a little bit more about the coming half term.

Our topic this half term is 'Ourselves'. We will be talking about what makes our family special and to help with this, we would like the children to bring in some photographs of their own family members which they can add to a short piece of written work.

In Literacy we will begin to learn the letters and sounds of the alphabet by focussing on a single letter in each lesson and asking the children to complete weekly phonics homework. We will also begin to introduce the reading scheme to the children during the coming week and you will soon find the first book in your child's folder. Please spend about ten minutes sharing the story, talking about the illustrations and helping your child to read any words before writing a brief comment in the reading diary to let us know how s/he got on.

In Numeracy, we will be focusing on numbers to ten and the children will complete activities involving the recognition, writing and ordering of numerals. We will also be learning about the language of shape, space and measures through a wide variety of play based, experimental and hands on experiences.

Although we do not expect the children to complete any formal maths homework, you can support their learning at home by talking about the ways that we use problem solving, reasoning and numeracy in our daily lives. For example, by looking together for numbers on street signs and car registration plates, involving them in simple cooking activities, pointing out the different shapes to be found around your home, taking them shopping and talking about the quantities of anything you buy or letting them handle money and work out how much things cost.

We are really looking forward to an exciting and productive term ahead and we hope that this brief summary will answer any general questions that you may have about the work that we are going to cover. However, please remember that we are usually available to talk informally at the end of the school day and you are always welcome to contact us if you have any further questions or concerns.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Lewis and Mrs Joyce