

Term 1 Reception Curriculum Newsletter – Puffins and Swans

We would like to take this opportunity to let you know how proud we are of all the children and the start they have made to school life. It has been a pleasure to get to know the new Puffins and Swans and we are excited about the year ahead.

Each term you will get a newsletter to inform you about our planned learning for the weeks ahead. This term our topic is **'All About Me'**.

Literacy

This term, our focus story book, that we will be learning to retell using signs and actions, is *Peter Rabbit by Beatrix Potter*. We also have a linked information book and will explore the differences between story books and information books. The two poems we will be learning to recite are *I Have a Dog* and *One, Two, Buckle my Shoe*. These rhymes help children to understand pattern in language.



Learning to read is an important part of school life. We have daily phonics lessons where we will be learning a new sound every day. At Northbourne, we use Read Write Inc. Phonics. We learn to hear the sounds and recognise what they look like when

written down. An important part of our Phonic lessons this term is being able to orally blend because if the children are unable to do this, they will find reading and spelling more difficult. The children will bring home sound sheets on a Friday for you to practise with them. More information about phonics and reading will follow shortly.

Mathematics

This term we will build on what the children already know and have experienced about number. We learn to subitise to 5 and recognise the amounts in different visual representations. We do lots of counting and singing of counting rhymes. When counting, we will secure the knowledge that the last number we say tells us how many things there are. We will explore the idea that numbers are made up of other amounts and can be subitised into groups, but the whole is still the same, e.g. 4 can be seen as 2 and 2 or 3 and 1, but the whole of both is 4. Throughout the term, we will develop our mathematical language to help us describe sets of objects.



Understanding the world

Through our topic of All About Me, we will be learning about how to look after pets and why it is important to take care of living things. We will hopefully be meeting a pet rabbit and finding out how to care for rabbits to keep them happy and healthy. If you have a pet at home, it would be great if you could email us a photo, using our phase email address (reception@northbourne.oxon.sch.uk) to prompt our discussions in class.

We will be looking at our family photos and talking about who is precious to us and will be exploring how families are different and unique. We emphasise that all families are special no matter how they are made up. We will create our own family pictures by becoming artists and drawing our families.



We will be talking about where we live and where our school is, and asking whether we live near or far away to our school. We will be learning about what maps are and how we use them. We will look for our homes and school on different maps.

We have already started learning about our school and the rules and routines we need to follow to keep us safe. We will be travelling back in time and finding out what schools were like in the past. We will be talking about how things change and about how we have all grown up to be old enough to go to school.

We will be exploring who God is and why God is so special to Christians. We will be learning about what happens in a church and finding out what a Harvest Festival is. We will be talking about what we like to celebrate at home and how we celebrate.

PE

Our PE lessons will be on **Friday** when children will need to come to school in their PE kit which they will stay in all day. Depending on the weather, PE may take place on the field or in the hall. A reminder that PE kit consists of green school PE T-shirt (available from the office), dark shorts or jogging bottoms, hoodie or sweatshirt and trainers.



We are lucky to have such a fantastic **Early Years team**. Here is a list of names your child might mention at home. They will see the staff members from the other classes outside.



Puffins- Mrs Alleway, Mrs Chapple, Miss Stear and Mrs Colebourn. On Friday, Mrs Marlow will be the class teacher.



Swans- Mrs Stanley, Mrs Kearsley and Mrs William, joined by Miss Stear on Friday.

Google Classroom

We are in the process of setting up Google Classroom accounts for all the children and you will soon be sent log in details. Google Classroom is an online platform where we can share what we have been doing in school with you to keep you updated with the children's learning.



A valuable part of the Early Years curriculum is to explore the outside area in all weathers. Children need to have the correct clothing in school for them to go outside. With the British weather as unpredictable as it is, children currently need a sun hat and sun cream in school as well as a warm waterproof coat and wellies. Plenty of spare clothes to change into if they get wet or muddy is also important. Please make sure all items are named as this makes it much easier to reunite children with lost items!

All children need a book bag in school every day to bring home letters and things they have made and eventually reading books. We also use book bags to send home accident slips so please check them every day. If child has bumped their head, they will also be wearing an orange wrist band to alert you to this.

If you have any questions or queries, please speak to your child's class teacher. It is hard for us to have long conversations in the morning, so afternoons are easier or use the Reception email: reception@northbourne.oxon.sch.uk.