

### **Reception Curriculum Letter** **Summer 2019**

This year we have implemented the scheme Power of Reading. The Power of Reading is about teaching Literacy through using high quality books and creative teaching approaches (such as art and drama). This approach aims to engage and motivate children in their literacy learning. It also enables children to deepen their understanding of texts and provides a meaningful context for writing. We have chosen to introduce the Power of Reading as part of our focus on further raising standards in Literacy. The Power of Reading helps to develop inference and deduction and comprehension skills. It also involves children regularly writing in different genres and creates a more cohesive learning experience. Literacy is at the heart of the curriculum and the texts facilitate a range of exciting cross curricular work.

Reading aloud is a key part of the Power of Reading. The strategy enables all children to access quality texts. Reading aloud also enables the teacher to model expressive and fluent reading to the children. Children then echo what they have heard read aloud in their own writing and in reading styles.

#### **Personal, Social and Emotional Development**

Through circle times we will be focusing on talking about our families and friends. We will be encouraging the children to have a positive self image and to feel confident to discuss their thoughts and feelings.

Through circle time sessions and assemblies, children will continue to learn about each other's beliefs and cultures. This encourages the children to value and respect one another.

Sharing, turn taking, personal hygiene and independence will be focused on through all areas of the curriculum. Please encourage your child to brush their teeth and hair, dress and undress themselves and use knives and forks during meal times at home.

#### **Communication and Language**

Kingfisher Hall Academy places an important emphasis on discussion and listening. Children will have many opportunities to develop their language skills through varied group activities. They will be encouraged to respond appropriately to peers and adults. Children will also develop their understanding by thinking about and answering 'how' and 'why' questions in response to stories and events.

Please take the time to ask your children what they have learnt or enjoyed from their school experiences after each day to further support their learning.

#### **Literacy**

All of our classrooms offer a text rich environment. We teach phonic knowledge through the Read Write Inc (RWI) programme. It is a structured programme to teach children the letter sounds and how to blend these sounds to read simple words (e.g. f-i-sh fish), and eventually sentences. When reinforcing this at home, it is important that you focus on the sound each letter makes as well as its name. E.g. ssss is the sound, S is the name. Talking about the letters in every day situations will help to consolidate the children's learning at school, e.g. what sound can you hear at the beginning of a word, what letters can you see on shop signs? 'I Spy' is also a good game to play to reinforce phonic knowledge. You can find out more about the RWI programme, and how to support your child at home, by visiting the following website:

<http://www.ruthmiskin.com/en/resources/>

Writing is also a main focus during this term. Children will be encouraged to write extended sentences and pieces of writing. Time for developing correct handwriting skills is allocated each day. Children will continue to consolidate their phonic knowledge by applying it to write words which can be decoded.

#### **Class Library**

It is so important to encourage children to enjoy a rich and wide variety of texts.

Each Friday children are given the opportunity to choose a book to take home. It is important that these books are returned by the following **Friday. A new book will not be given unless it has been returned.** Your child's reading diary should be used when reading at home and will be a useful form of communication between school and home.

There are many activities you can do at home together with books. You can read a book to your child, pointing to the words and talking about the pictures. Encourage your child to look at the pictures and try to predict what might happen next. You might like to focus on the front cover and what it might tell you about the story. This allows your child to offer suggestions about the storyline. Your child can look at the writing and see if they can find any of the letters from their name or sounds they know. The story can be read together on several occasions and as they become more familiar with it they will begin to read parts of the story with you or even use the pictures to make up their own stories. When reading with your child it is important that they are relaxed and having fun! It is also important that you ask your child lots of questions – this encourages them to think and elaborate on their thoughts.

During the week, children have access to a variety of books and story props in the classroom. Trips to the library are an important opportunity to engage children's interest in books.

### **Mathematics**

We have also implemented the use of Numicon which is designed to help children visualise numbers. From this visual picture they can see how we can add, subtract, multiply and divide numbers and the relationships between these. The different coloured Numicon shapes represent different numbers. Numicon is multi-sensory; children can touch as well as see the numbers.

How is Numicon used? In the Early Years the shapes are used to represent numbers from 1-10 and in the stages used after this, the apparatus is used to show higher numbers giving an important concrete image of place value.

Children will continue to develop numeracy skills through a variety of songs and interactive activities, using the Numicon program. These will be focused around number writing, calculating, counting, measure and shape with a main focus each week. Days, weeks and months will be consolidated and counting is an ongoing focus. Asking your child what the day is today or tomorrow will help to reinforce this. We will also be working on number recognition, writing numbers 1-20, counting in sets of 2s, 5s and 10s, as well as estimating. This can be reinforced at home in a variety of ways e.g. by counting cutlery on the table, their toys, steps, sweets or the number of cars you pass on the way to school.

Activities such as looking for coloured cars or doors when walking to school will help to reinforce colour names.

### **Understanding the World**

We will mainly be looking at animals and their features, how plants grow and people who help us.

The children will have opportunities to use a range of technologies (digital cameras, microphones and beebots) and understand how these are relevant to the everyday world.

The children will be cooking different types of food on a regular basis and have the opportunity to taste their own cooking. In order to cover the cost of ingredients we ask for a voluntary contribution of £2.00 every term. We will offer reminders for this.

### **Expressive Arts and Design**

The children will have the opportunity to develop their representational skills whilst using a variety of media. During daily singing sessions children will learn a range of new songs. They will have the opportunity to explore the different sounds that can be made with musical instruments and experiment with changing sounds. The children will have free access to imaginative play areas, which allows them to draw on their previous experiences.

### **Physical Development**

Physical Development is a main focus of the curriculum and will be an important part of your child's education. It is important that you make sure that your child has their P.E. kit in school at all times and that everything is clearly labelled with their name. No jewellery should be worn to school with the exception of stud earrings for pierced ears. **Please remember to remove your child's earrings on their P.E. day; otherwise they will not be able to join in the lesson.** We will begin our P.E. lessons focusing on spatial

awareness and balancing. P.E lessons will be on **Monday for Garnet class** and **Tuesday for Ruby class** so therefore P.E kits must be in school on this day.

The children will also have everyday opportunities to develop their physical skills, i.e. inside the classroom whilst using pencils, scissors and rolling pins and also outside when riding the bikes, playing in the sand pit etc. Children will be enjoying outdoor experiences in all weather conditions so please ensure that they are fully equipped.

### **Guided Reading**

The children read once a week with the class teacher. The children are now able to choose their own book and take it home. The children bring their book back on their allocated day to be changed. Reading plays an integral part of your child's learning so get involved! Please make regular comments in the children's reading records so we can hear about your child's experiences with a range of books.

### **Reminders:**

- Children should bring a water bottle and their book bags to school everyday!
- Children should have a PE kit and a rain coat on their pegs at all times!
- Everything should be clearly named in order for your child to learn to take responsibility for their belongings!
- Library books should be returned in good condition weekly.
- It is essential you send a letter clearly stating who will be picking up your child if you are unable to. If it is short notice, please contact the office directly. We will not be releasing children to any adults unknown to us, even if the child knows them.
- Please ensure we have current telephone and mobile numbers and the emergency contact details are up to date.
- It is a parents/carers responsibility to ensure a child is in school on time every day.
- Please ensure that school uniform is followed accurately. An essential list has been sent out but you can obtain one from the school office too.

Please remember that we are always available after school for you to ask questions or discuss any concerns

Thank you for all your support.

Miss Koutra and Miss Nichols