



## Spring Term in Reception (RH and RL)

*But as for you, be strong and do not give up, for your work  
will be rewarded.*

*Chronicles 15:7*

Welcome! We would like to begin by taking this opportunity to welcome all the children and our parents/carers back to our spring term at St Thomas' Primary Academy. We hope you have had a fantastic Christmas break.



The Early Years Team would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Reception parents and carers for their cooperation and support during the first term. We are extremely proud of all the children and how well they have settled into their first term at school

### Important reminders:



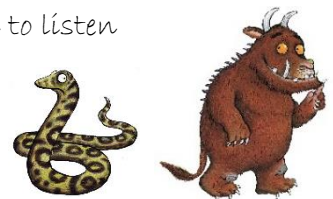
PE KIT must be in school on Friday.

Jewellery must not be worn and long hair tied back.

All kit must be labelled with child's full name.

**Reading Books** - These need to be in school daily but will be changed once a week.

Reading at home with your child is essential and helps your child consolidate what they have learnt in school and develop their reading ability. If a book has been read, please sign inside the reading journal so that we know and change this book for you. The children will bring home 2 reading books throughout this term. This will include a phonics-based reading book, which will match the sounds that are taught in school. They will also bring home a story book with a sticker that reads 'Reading for Pleasure'. These books are to be enjoyed at home with an adult reading the story to encourage children to listen to new vocabulary and explore a range of genres. Please ask your children questions about what they have read to develop their comprehension skills and love for reading. Below are some links to support reading with your child at home.



### Ten top tips for reading stories to your child

- 1 Make reading to your child feel like a treat. Introduce each new book with excitement.
- 2 Make it a special quiet time and cuddle up so both of you can see the book.
- 3 Show curiosity in what you're going to read:  
*Oh no! I think Arthur is going to get even angrier now.*
- 4 Read the whole story the first time through without stopping too much. If you think your child might not understand something, model an explanation:  
*Oh I think what's happening here is that...*
- 5 Chat about the story:  
*I wonder why he did that?*  
*Oh no, I hope she's not going to...*  
*I wouldn't have done that, would you?*
- 6 Avoid asking questions to test what your child remembers.
- 7 Link stories to your own experiences (e.g. *This reminds me of...*)
- 8 Read favourite stories over and over again. Get your child to join in with the bits they know.
- 9 Read with enthusiasm. Don't be embarrassed to try out different voices. Your child will love it.
- 10 Read with enjoyment. If you're not enjoying it, your child won't.



**THERE IS NO  
ENJOYMENT  
LIKE READING!**

Homework - Homework books will be sent home on Fridays containing two pieces of homework; one piece of Maths and one piece of Literacy and must be returned by the following Wednesday. If you would like any help or guidance regarding homework, please speak to a member of the EYFS team.

Oxford Owl Portal - This term the children will also begin to have access to the Oxford Owl reading portal. An additional phonics book will be assigned for your child to read at home and then take part in the quiz. This allows the children to revisit a text they have read in school but also answer questions linked to the story or answer phonics-based questions.

The children also can review the story they have read. You will find your child's login details in their reading record.

[Login \(oxfordowl.co.uk\)](http://oxfordowl.co.uk)



Maths Shed- Assignments on Maths Shed will also continue to be set each week for the children to complete at home. All learning tasks that will be set will link to their learning in school. There are lots of o games that can be accessed to support the children with their counting and number skills. As your child plays the games, they can collect 'honeypots' which goes towards a league table.



Snack time - Water bottles and snacks should be labelled where appropriate, children will bring these into the classroom in the morning and place them in a basket. Drinks should all be in a bottle which has a sports lid and they are only allowed water in these. We would like to remind parents free snacks are available to all children, however if you wish to pack a snack for your child, we encourage healthy, to promote a healthy and balanced diet.



Other notices- Please remember children need to be dropped off and collected at the **Reception doors** and the doors will be closed at **8:40am** in the morning. They will be opened at **3:15pm** in the afternoon. Children will only be dismissed to their parent/carers. We ask that if somebody new is collecting that you let the class teacher know and the main office. Only adults 18 and over are able to collect children from school.

Please do not allow your child to play in the Reception outdoor areas or climbing equipment before or after school- please do not allow your children to play near the tennis tables on the KS2 playground or use the KS2 Adventure Playground equipment.

If possible, please provide wellington boots (named) so your child can access our fantastic outdoor area. Children can also be sent into school with additional outdoor clothing if you prefer, however we do have some all in one suits available that they can use.

### Meet the Reception Team:



Mrs Harris

RL Class Teacher  
EYFS leader & Phase leader



Miss Lenton

RL Class Teacher



Mrs Smith

RH Teaching  
assistant



Mrs Fraser

RL Teaching  
assistant

What will we be learning about?

### Topic for Term 3: Superheroes

This term the children will be learning all about superheroes, they shall start the term looking at fiction books with Superhero characters and lead up to learning about our community superheroes e.g postal workers and police officers. The children will also be looking at the local area surrounding the school and their home. In Maths the children will be focusing on the numbers 0-5 focusing on how to make those numbers, finding one more and one less and quick recall of the amounts.

### Topic for Term 4: Round and round we go.

Our topic for term 4 will focus on vehicles. We will be looking at stories which feature a range of different vehicles and the roles those vehicles have. In Maths the children will be moving on to the numbers 6,7 and 8. They will be looking at how to make the numbers and how our number knowledge helps us build those numbers e.g doubling 4 and 4 to make 8.

### Read, Write, Inc.

The children will continue to learn sounds through differentiated phonics, where children will consolidate their learning surrounding segmenting and blending. The children will begin to read simple texts and use what they have read to complete and write simple sentences. Please encourage your child to recognise their tricky words and sounds in their environment. When reading their reading book, challenge your child to re-read with less emphasis to decode. This will develop their fluency.



**After break** the children will then take part in both a Math's and Literacy lesson. This will consist of a whole-class adult-led input to begin, followed by activities both adult-led and independent. In the afternoons the children will take part in our teeth brushing and continue their adult-led topic sessions, followed by the opportunity to engage in child-initiated play and provision. Child initiated is a brilliant opportunity for the children to master any skills taught and challenge themselves further in their learning.

**Physical Development:** Gymnastics' will be taught every week in the sport's hall on a Friday afternoon.

**House Points-** Throughout the year, Reception will be awarded with house points for their star behaviour, demonstrating our Church School values, showing resilience and determination when completing their work, displaying wonderful manners, reading at home and being excellent role models. When the children have reached their target each term, they will be able to choose their own class treat. This could include watching a film, taking part in a cooking activity or a visit or trip. The choices are endless. They will also be awarded a certificate which will be handed out during our Celebration Worship. Below are some of the certificates your child may receive throughout the year.



**E- safety-** Safety is very important to us and your children, so they will be learning how to keep themselves safe throughout the curriculum, through our safety days and curriculum weeks. The internet is such an amazing resource, but children must know how to use it safely. We ask for your support with teaching your child to use websites and apps safely at home too. It is important to promote safe and positive use of digital technology. Click on the link to see the online story about a Penguin and learn how to keep safe on the internet. You can also find tips on talking to your child about online safety.

<https://www.childnet.com/resources/smartie-the-penguin/>

[Teaching Your Child about Internet & Online Safety | NSPCC](#)

### Upcoming Events

This term we will be visiting a Chinese restaurant ahead of learning about Chinese New Year. We will be travelling by Coach and sampling some different foods at the restaurant. We will be walking to the post box to post letters we have written and our balance bike workshop to look forward to!

Thank you for your support. If you wish to ask any questions to any member of our Early Years Team, please feel free to ask.

Mrs Harris and Miss Lenton