



DUNNINGTON C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

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EYFS Curriculum Newsletter – Autumn Term 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to the beginning of your child’s journey through school! The children have made such a positive start and are adapting to school life well. Thank you for your on-going support with this - we are looking forward to a happy and successful year with your children. As you will already be aware, the EYFS team for the year is made up of:

- Mrs Elliott – EYFS Phase Leader & Class Teacher (Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri)
- Mrs Subritzky – Class Teacher (Thursdays)
- Mrs Midgley – Teaching Assistant
- Mrs Downing – Teaching Assistant

Our Learning

A curriculum overview is now available on the website, which outlines planned topics and areas of study for the year ahead. Whilst this is our long term plan, we are led by the children’s interests and so this will act as a guide, subject to review and change as and when the children’s interests change. The overarching theme for this term is ‘I wonder what is special’, which should allow us to incorporate a vast array of mini topics. We are starting the year looking at ‘All About Me’, thinking about our ‘unique’ selves and our feelings; we will then be moving on to look at families and friends. This will really allow the children to get to know one another and share their thoughts and feelings on a topic they can discuss more easily.

As you will already be aware, the DFE introduced a new EYFS framework, which began in September 2021. This means that your child will follow the new updated EYFS framework and will work towards the final assessment at the end of the Reception year, using the new ELGs (Early Learning Goals). These goals are short statements that teachers assess your child against at the end of the year. The 7 main areas of learning remain the same as previous years. These are:

Communication & Language		Physical Development		Personal, Social and Emotional Development	
Literacy	Mathematics	Expressive Arts and Design		Understanding the World	

As part of the changes to the new framework, it also means that there is less emphasis on recording paperwork, meaning that we, as adults, can spend more time with your child getting to know them and having those quality interactions. The new framework is also more aligned with the KS1 curriculum,



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further ensuring that your child's educational journey from Reception to KS1 builds upon previous knowledge.

As part of the new framework, each child is obliged to complete the Reception Baseline Assessment (RBA). This is a short, interactive and practical assessment of your child's early literacy, communication, language and mathematics skills when they begin in school. It will be undertaken with myself over the next few weeks and the data will be used by the DfE to measure your child's progress from Reception to Year 6. The data from the assessment, including numerical scores, is not shared with you, pupils, teachers, or external bodies, including schools, and there will be no published scores at pupil, school or national level. The RBA will, however, allow me to spend quality 1:1 time with your child getting to know them and it will provide an insight into whether they need any further support in certain areas. A useful parent booklet, produced by the DfE explaining more about the RBA is included with this letter. If you have any further questions after reading this, then please feel free to contact me.

General Information

There is a Reception class information page on the school website, where you will be able to find copies of letters, homework and information about curriculum activities. From time to time, we may share photographs and videos on our web page – if you have not already done so, please notify the school office if you do not want pictures or videos of your child to be used. In addition, activities in the classroom may sometimes involve children baking or eating - it is therefore very important that you let us know at the start of the year if your child has any food allergies or if you do not want them to be involved in food tasting.

In Reception, each child has their own peg near to their classroom, which is for larger items such as coats, bags of spare clothing and forest schools wellies. As you will know, we are planning to do PE on a Wednesday this year; however, as the year goes on, we may increase these sessions and therefore add an extra 'PE clothes' day. (Note this may fall in line with our Forest School sessions). Earrings must be removed for PE - any child who cannot remove their earrings will not be able to take part in sessions. Please notify us in writing or by e-mail in advance if your child is unable to participate in PE for any reason.

We are planning to complete a Forest schools activity each week. This will take place outdoors and as a result, your child may need wellies and a waterproof kept in school. We are lucky enough that we have enough cloakroom space to accommodate this, so if you would like to send these in with your child, please do so.

It is also handy if your child has a bookbag in school with them each day. We will keep these in the classroom and will use them to transport letters and also reading books and reading records once we feel that the children are starting to get a secure grasp of phonics. It is important to note that new guidance advises that children should only be 'reading' fully decodable books, aligned to their growing phonics knowledge. As a result, your child will be issued with a 'reading' book according to their phonics level; we will also send home a 'story to share', which, although not fully decodable, can be enjoyed with an adult. A further letter detailing how we teach phonics and reading in school will be sent out shortly.

All children in Reception should bring in a filled water bottle, which they will need in school to keep hydrated throughout the day. These will be sent home daily for washing and refilling before coming to school the next day.

Seesaw

As discussed at the new starter meeting before the holidays, we will be using Seesaw this year to facilitate home-school communication and this would also be used for remote learning, if required. In order to set up your Seesaw account, we need you to return your permission slip to school. If you have not completed this already, please do so and we can set up the class area and share details of your login and password.



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A request for photos!

Your child may have told you that we have a ‘home’ corner within the classroom. I am planning for this space to evolve and change each week to facilitate imaginative play and enhance communication skills. Last week the children were introduced to the space and were beginning to use the space for role-playing. This week the children will be helping to ‘decorate’ their new house, and I’m hoping they will have fun experimenting with different fabric, wallpaper and paint samples.

I would really like to be able to put up a ‘family’ photo on the wall for each of the children to make them feel ‘at home’. (Note: no names will be displayed with the photos). I therefore wondered if you would be able to send a family photo into school (either hard copy or by email and I will print) at your earliest convenience. These pictures can be any size, but should include your child as well as family members!

And finally...

Please speak to us as soon as possible if you have any concerns regarding your child, however trivial they may seem. We all want to work together with you to ensure the best possible start for your child.

We look forward to a successful and fun year ahead.

Kind Regards,

Tracey Elliott
Edwina Subritzky



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