

Dear Reception Parents

Welcome to the new academic year at Violet Lane. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of some of the areas of learning that your child will encounter during the next term and some of the ways that you might like to help them at home.

1 Encouraging independence:-

Getting dressed.
Fastening coats and shoes.
Entering the school building unaccompanied.
Being responsible for a little pocket money and beginning to understand how much they have.

2 Social Skills:-

Encouraging awareness of others and their feelings.
Tidying up after themselves.
Sharing toys, sweets with others. Count them out!
Playing games and taking turns.

3 Practical Skills:-

Experience of scissors, glue, pens, pencils etc.
Correct use of knives, forks and spoons when eating.
Completing jigsaws.

4 Language Skills:

- a. Encourage discussion about themselves, their surroundings and feelings.
- b. Sharing books – (both reading scheme and other books) discussing how they are held, distinguishing words from pictures, and words from letters, reading from the front to back of book, left to right, talking about the pictures and what they think is happening / will happen next.
- c. Learning nursery rhymes.
- d. Writing their name using the correct formation.
- e. Recognising letters of the alphabet and the sound they make
e.g. a=a b=buh c=cuh d=duh etc.
At a later date introduce the letter names and teach the alphabet.

Your child will shortly bring home a 'sound book'. Each week we will write in the sounds we have worked on in school. Guidelines at the front of the book will provide some ideas as to how you can help at home. Please keep the book in your child's book bag. It will be taken out by the class teacher on Thursdays and replaced on Fridays. Homework will be differentiated after the first month.

A library book and a reading book will be sent home every week. We recommend that a few minutes each day is spent with these books. Please feel free to write comments in your child's reading diary each week. Your child's reading day is written on the front cover of the reading diary.

5 Letter and number formation:

Practising writing their names.
Practising writing the numbers 0 to 9.

It is important that the children are taught the correct letter and number formation. Help sheets will be given out at next week's meeting.

6 Maths Skills:-

Colour recognition.

Counting objects accurately – up to 10 initially

Sorting into sets e.g. things that are red, putting out a knife and fork at meal times, giving each person one cake etc.

Number recognition 0-10.

Number formation 0-10.

Comparing the size, height, length of objects

Recognition and naming of shapes:- square, rectangle, circle and triangle.

Continue with higher numbers if your child is able.

7 Cooking:-

Cooking activities are very good for maths activities and science and introduce a lot of new language.

Topics for this term include: Ourselves, Belonging, Autumn, Light and Dark.

Some of our topics include cooking and food tasting activities. Please speak to your child's teacher about any special dietary needs, food allergies etc.

Please can all children bring in separate water bottles in addition to their lunch time drink, please make sure that your child's water bottle is named. Juice may be drunk at dinner time, water at snack time and throughout the day if needed.

A meeting for Parents will be held on 17th September 2009 at 2 o'clock. During the meeting we will discuss the curriculum and routines. Maths and Literacy packs will be given out to help your children at home. If you cannot attend the meeting the packs will be sent home.

Finally, could you please ensure that all items are named including clothing, purses, lunch boxes and drinks.

We hope that you find this information helpful and thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely

**Mrs L Bridge
Year Reception Leader/Deputy Headteacher**