

Autumn Term Reception Newsletter

Welcome to Reception

Personal, Social and Emotional Development: This is one of the most important areas of learning. Children will be encouraged, through modelling, class activities and choosing time, to develop their independence, confidence and to build strong relationships with peers and adults in class. Stories, class discussions and circle times will help them to understand the consequences of their own actions as well as to become aware of their emotions and to start expressing them. PSED is also closely linked to RE.

Communication and Language: This area is vital to help the children to fully achieve their potential and express their thinking and ideas. Speaking and listening skills are developed daily during carpet sessions, story time, group or one-to-one work as well as choosing time, when children independently engage with the activities available in the continuous provision. This includes loads of opportunities for role-play, small-world and imaginative play where children are encouraged to introduce a narrative.

Maths: At OLSJ, we follow the *White Rose* scheme. This term, we will be working with numbers to 10: we will count, recognise and order numerals. We will also find one more and one less than a given number. It is important that children have the opportunity to work with objects first before moving to working with pictorials. We will focus on patterns too, learning to recognise, describe and make them.

Understanding the World: We will begin by talking about ourselves and our families, recognising similarities and differences and understanding that all families are important. We will also explore the nature around us and observe seasonal changes whilst we go into Autumn and Winter.

Dear Parents and Carers,
Welcome to OLSJ and to Reception. We have had a smooth and happy start to the school year. Children have settled well, they are very joyful during the day and are starting to get to know each other and to form bonds.

Our focus, especially this term, is to create an environment where children feel safe, happy, cared for and listened to. This will also lead to effective learning.

Below an overview of the curriculum for the Autumn term in all seven areas of learning.

Physical Development: We will be having weekly PE sessions (on Wednesdays) with Mr James with the aim of exploring ways of moving our bodies and using different kinds of equipment. A strong focus will also be placed on the development of fine motor skills, with activities designed to improve pencil grip and children's accuracy when mark making and forming letters.

Literacy: At OLSJ, we follow the *Floppy's Phonics* Scheme. After a Phase focused on environmental and instrumental sounds we will begin to learn single letter sounds. Children will learn the sounds of the letters and use them to read and write simple phonetically decodable words. We will also begin to read and write some helpful words; these words do not follow the phonics 'rules' and have to be learnt off by heart. Daily story time and weekly focus texts will also be the core of the Literacy curriculum in Reception. Fiction, non-fiction and rhyming books will be shared to help your children develop a lifelong love for reading and writing.

Expressive Art and Design: We will create art experimenting with colours, design, texture and different mediums. Children will also have weekly music sessions with Ms Dyer, where they will be introduced to recognising the difference between rhythm and pulse and the different instruments of the percussion family, focusing on their names and how to play them.

RE: We follow the 'Come and See' curriculum. We will be learning about the Domestic Church (my self and my family), Baptism (belonging and a welcome to God's family and Advent (Jesus' Birthday).

We will work very hard to ensure your child has the best possible start to their life in school. Please do not hesitate to contact me with if you have any questions as your support at home is equally precious to guarantee the best progress for your child.

Many thanks

Chiara Scarpini (Reception Class Teacher)