

# Year Reception Curriculum Newsletter



## January 2022, Development of Ben Jonson's new EYFS curriculum

Welcome to Ben Jonson School! It has been wonderful welcoming all children into school and in their new classes. We spent the first three weeks 'establishing' expectations, routines and the relationships we know will support learning in the coming year. This is critical for children's personal, social and emotional development. Thank you for all your support with the settling process. Now it is time to start our learning across the wider curriculum so we can develop your child's speech and language, their physical development, reading, writing, number and a range of other areas we know young children are interested in.

As our main curriculum document we use 'Development Matters' 2020 which provides a rich curriculum for children from birth up to 5 years old. By the time your child moves into Year 1 and embarks on the learning journey in the National Curriculum, we aim to make sure they are well launched in their learning in all areas.

### Our Vision

- Every child is appreciated as an individual **unique learner**, accesses the range of provision, and achieves their full potential. We aim for our children to develop a range of qualities including resilience, care for others, curiosity, confidence and self-assurance.
- All practitioners do the best for all children and are responsive and consistent. **Strong positive relationships** are at the heart of our teaching and learning and support children through changes and transitions.
- Our curriculum is a top-level ambitious plan of everything we want children to learn. It is creative, rich and inspirational and fosters high quality **learning and development**. Crucially, it ensures our children become confident effective communicators.
- Our children are powerful learners and every child makes progress. Learning through play is at the heart of our practice alongside guided learning and direct teaching. We have carefully organised **enabling environments** for high-quality play.

We are really excited to develop our new curriculum this year and look forward to seeing it in action and being driven by the values of being *brave*, *kind* and *curious*, ensuring all our children realise their potential.

## Key information about Year Reception

- This term we continue to focus on the key processes of learning to read. This will include daily phonics lessons; daily high frequency words; big book reading with their class teacher and a rich variety of stories at story time. We will be starting small group reading sessions and to support this we will now be sending books home regularly. At the beginning of spring term 2022 we will begin sending books home at their reading level so they can continue to practice their reading at home. Your child will also take home a book to read for pleasure. We will be adding a guide for reading at home with your child, to Google Classroom in the next week.
- Your children are well launched on phonics. A guide to this learning is on the Google Classroom platform so that parents understand this approach, including ways for parents to help at home.
- Similarly we will be teaching children the first 45 high frequency words i.e. the most common words used in English. There is also a guide to how you can support your child with learning in this area on Google Classroom.
- Google Classroom will be the main place for you to go if you want to access different materials to support learning at home. This includes high frequency word games to help your child remember these key words, ways to support your child's writing, fun learning activities and stories read aloud by staff.
- Guides for supporting children with how to use Google Classroom are available on the school website. If you have difficulty accessing the internet from home, let your child's teacher know.



# Year Reception's topics for the Spring term is

## Animals and dinosaurs and People who help us

In Spring term we continue concentrate on three main areas:

Communication and language; personal, social and emotional development; physical development.

We encourage children to play and explore with the activities we plan and we capitalise on their interests.

We provide opportunities for reading, writing and counting through these activities and build on where children's understanding is. We start to teach writing more directly for those children who are ready.

We do whole class teaching or group work in phonics, high frequency words, shared reading, guided reading and number.

The learning journey for Spring:

Animal and dinosaurs and People who help us

**Farm animals and baby animals**

What do you know about animals?  
Same/ different?  
Let's make animals!



**Jungle animals**

What animals live in the jungle?  
What patterns do they have on their body?



**Under the sea**

What animals live under the sea?  
How do they survive?  
What do they eat?



**How do police help us?**

What do the police do?  
How do they keep us safe?



**Who are the people who help us?**

Lots of people help us. What are their jobs?



**Dinosaurs**

Dinosaurs in the Ice Age  
Free the frozen dinosaurs!



**Dinosaurs**

What do you know about dinosaurs?  
What do they eat?  
Herbivore/ Carnivore?



**How do Fire Fighters help us?**

How do they keep us safe?



**How do Paramedics help us?**

What do you do in an emergency



**People who help us in school**

Who helps us at school?



**How do Mums and Dads help us?**

Who helps at home?

