

Reception Newsletter

Our School Rules

Be safe. Be kind.



Be responsible.



Important dates

Non-pupil day – Monday 2nd October 2023

HALF-TERM Monday 23rd – Friday 27th October 2023

Termly Learning Conference – Wednesday 15th November 2023

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS Thursday 21st December 2023 – Wednesday 3rd January 2023

Return Thursday 5th January 2023

Welcome to White Hall!

The children have settled brilliantly in school and getting used to their new environments. They have been learning basic class routines, making new friends through play and completed some small focussed activities. In November we shall be having a Termly Learning Conference, which will be a 10-minute dialogue with the teacher about how your child is getting on so far. The appointments will be made in the coming weeks. Please remember to check Class Dojo for regular updates, notices or events on both the School story and the Class story.

A polite reminder that our priority in the morning is to welcome your child into class and ensure they are settled. This also helps us to start the school day at 8:45am which is when registration closes. If you have any concerns, please contact the class teacher via Class Dojo to pass on a message or to make an after-school appointment for a longer discussion. This may be a meeting in-person or phone call depending on school commitments. Thank you.

Our learning this half term

ALL ABOUT ME

This topic will help us to settle in by looking at our favourite things and learning all about ourselves! It gives us an opportunity to build relationships, learn rules and routines, know how to keep safe and look after one another. We will also paint portraits of ourselves and talk about our families.

Maths – we will be learning how to sort objects, match equal and unequal sets of objects, and compare sets and sizes. Then we will practise how to copy, continue and create patterns.

Writing – we will be practising our fine and gross motor skills with various activities to get us ready for writing. Additionally, we will be learning to tell stories and act them out with story time sessions. This half term we will also practise recognising and writing our names.

Phonics – we shall be listening for familiar sounds that we can hear in our environment. We will also practise rhythm and rhyme with books and Nursery rhymes, before we sound out words we can hear.

Please note that Reception children do not have P.E. lessons this term. Physical development is part of their learning through play and skills are embedded through their outdoor learning opportunities.

Polite Reminder

Please make sure all of your child's belongings are labelled, including uniform, water bottles, lunch boxes, coats, book bags and messy play clothes.

In other news...

Independence

As part of the Early Years ethos, over this term we aim to enable each child to develop their independence. Ways in which you can help are:

- Encouraging them to use cutlery (knife and fork for main, spoon for dessert) at home.
- Beginning to dress themselves, e.g. take on and off a coat and/or jumper.
- Handing over your child at the classroom door to settle themselves.

Ideas you can explore at home

- Look at environmental print (logos and signs) in the home and outside, i.e. McDonald's sign, Tesco, Clacton Pier, etc.
- Practise name writing and name recognition.
- Sort items into categories, e.g. matching socks, clothes into colours.
- Talk about healthy eating and living, encouraging brushing teeth, drinking and eating healthy drinks and snacks, balanced diets etc.
- Practise recognising numbers 0-10 and matching objects to the numeral.
- Reading stories together and talking about what happens next and how the characters feel.
- Play games to encourage turn taking and sharing.
- Discussing emotions and how they feel in different situations. How can you make yourself feel better? What do you need to help you?
- Support with independent skills like dressing, using cutlery, and going to the toilet independently, including washing hands.

SAFETY REMINDERS

We would politely like to remind you that we are a **nut free school** and there are children within our setting with severe nut allergies that require epi-pens. Please refrain from sending in foods that contain nuts or nut traces.

Drinks: Please supply **water** in a **named water bottle** for children to drink throughout the day. They will be encouraged to drink and go to the toilet frequently. No fruit shoots, energy drinks or pure juice please.

Sweets: As a healthy school we do not permit children to bring sweets in lunch boxes or pockets.

The wearing of earrings is not permitted as we need to keep your children safe whilst playing and in PE.

Messy Play

Children will always take part in messy play as part of our Early Years curriculum. It engages the children to use their senses to work their bodies to help with writing, plus encourage good communication skills and build their vocabulary.

Children are encouraged to wear aprons, but may come home a little dirty to show they've participated in purposeful play. Your child may bring in a **spare set of non-school uniform clothes that they can change into to 'get messy'**. Please name items and place them in a named bag to be left in school.