

Welcome to Reception at Bridge and Patrixbourne CEP School

Newsletter – Term 1 – Marvellous Me

We hope you had a lovely summer holiday and that your children are ready for their exciting journey through our school. We are really looking forward to getting to know you all and to building positive relationships with you in order to ensure your child's time in Reception is successful and fun. We are already thrilled by how well they have settled in and how comfortable they seem in the setting. At the start of each new term, we will send home a newsletter outlining some of the learning for the forthcoming weeks, key information and ideas for how you can help support your child's learning at home. There are seven main areas of learning in the Early Years Foundation Stage. On the next page, we have summarised our key learning for you. We have an open-door policy and are very happy to answer any questions you may have.

Our general routine will consist of short periods of adult-led teaching followed by longer periods of child-initiated play. This will allow the children to become deeply engrossed in their chosen activity. The adults will then engage with them to scaffold their learning. This term's topic, 'Marvellous Me', lends itself well to exploring the children's new environment, the adults within it and understanding the rules and routines of school. If you are happy for your child to have a family photo displayed in the classroom, then we would love the opportunity to share these, alongside their "All About Me" books.

Key Information:-

- From Monday 11th September, the timings of the day are as follows:-
- 8.35am – the gates will be open for you to enter the school grounds. At 8.40am – the classroom doors will be opened for the children to come in.
- 8.50am – the gates and classroom doors will be closed. If you arrive after this time, your child will need to come into school via the school office.
- 3.10pm – this is the end of the school day for the Reception children (gates open at 3.05pm) and they can be collected from outside of their respective classrooms.
- Please try to ensure that your child has a coat in school every day, so that we can make full use of the outdoor environment.
- If your child is having a packed lunch from home, we are a nut free school and we encourage healthy lunch boxes.
- Toys from home should not be brought into school just in case they were to get lost or broken.
- Please ensure that your child (or any younger siblings) do not play on any of the outdoor playground equipment at the beginning or the end of the day. This includes the equipment in the Reception Classroom Outdoor area too.
- Please remember to send your child in daily with a full water bottle. This should be clear plastic, named and we would ask that this is not carried in your child's bookbag, especially when we start to give out reading books.
- You may like to add one keyring to your child's bookbag to make it more clearly identifiable, but this is optional.
- P.E. will be on a Friday morning for this term. Your child should come to school dressed in their P.E. kit.
- All children should have a pair of welly boots that can be kept on the welly rack outside of the classroom, for those 'wet and muddy play' opportunities! They should also have a bag of spare clothes in a small, clearly labelled bag on their peg. This does not have to be uniform though, just clothes that your child will be comfortable in if they need to change.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

- Learning new rules and class routines
- Learning about friends.
- Seeing ourselves as part of a new group.
- Trying out new activities.
- Learning how to ask for help.
- Learning about taking turns and understanding that we may not always get our own way.
- Learning about what is a good choice.

Communication and Language

- Learning how to listen, to an adult, to a friend and in group or whole class situations.
- Singing nursery rhymes or songs
- Learning the new 'language' of school and the routines of the day
- Talking about likes and dislikes and what is special to us.

Physical Development – Agility

- To explore and discover spatial awareness.
- To explore different types of travelling within a specific area and being aware of others.
- To explore using arms and legs to help development movement within a specific area and in different directions.
- To develop coordination and agility to run skilfully, change directions and move within space.

Understanding the World

- We will learn about our 5 senses and explore our local environment with a focus on the seasonal changes linked to Autumn.
- We will be celebrating Harvest later in the term and using seasonal vegetables to make soup.



Marvellous Me

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Expressive Art and Design

- We will explore colour and learn how we can change colours by mixing them together.
- We will learn new songs and rhymes related to our learning in other areas.

R.E.

- We will understand that the Bible is a special book for Christians and explore what this word means.
- We will learn why the word God is important to Christians.
- We will learn about the story of creation.

Literacy

- We will be sharing a number of books as the basis for our topic this term, including The Rainbow Fish, Elmer stories, Alfie Gives a Hand and other books in this series, The Blue Balloon, Kipper's Birthday and others by Mick Inkpen, The Enormous Turnip, Pumpkin Soup and Stone Soup, if you would like to share any of these stories at home.

Key things to focus are:-

- Holding a book correctly, turning the pages and indicating an understanding of pictures and print.
- Telling a story to friends (soft toys, brothers, sisters).
- Talking about events and characters in books.
- Making predictions about what might happen next.

Phonics

- We will be learning the phonemes and tricky words: s,a,t,p,i,n,m,d,g,o,c,k,ck,e,u,r,h,b,f,l, plus the tricky words – is, I, the.
- Further details on the phonics scheme we use and how we teach reading in our school will be provided in a phonics workshop on **Monday 25th September at 2.15pm** in the school hall.

Diary Dates – further details will be sent out nearer the time

- Wednesday 27th September – 2.30pm – Welcome service at St. Peter's Church in Bridge.
- Wednesday 18th October – am - Harvest Celebration service – St. Peter's Church in Bridge.

Maths

- We will be learning about subitizing – recognising smaller quantities without counting.
- We will develop a deeper understanding of the composition of numbers within 5.
- We will compare sets of objects, looking at whether they are the same or different. We will also compare them by size, mass and capacity and create patterns.