



# Curriculum Newsletter

Bramham Shadwell Federation  
Class R January – February 2024



This term Reception will be learning all about Winter and Dinosaurs.

## Communication, Language and Literacy

- The focus will be on learning about Winter and Dinosaurs. We will be using a range of non-fiction texts and reading stories related to these two topics.
- The children will be learning how to use the features of a non-fiction book.
- They will go on a Winter Walk and write a list of all the things they see in Winter.
- Our Talk for Writing text this term is 'We Are Going on a Bear Hunt'. The children will develop a deep understanding of the text and story patterns through different story play activities, as well as, going on their very own bear hunts! The children will then create a new version of the story as a class which they will then have the opportunity to develop, refine and retell in provision. We will use shared and guided writing to record the new story as a story map using labels, captions and simple sentences.
- They will also be predicting which will be the best method to melt ice.
- All children will continue to read to an adult both, in group reading sessions and individually.

### Writing:

- All children will start to write a simple sentence. They will practise this through weekly news writing, phonics and independent writing challenges.
- We will also be further developing our story telling skills which will help develop our writing.

## Mathematical Development

- The focus will be on recognising and ordering numbers to six.
- We will continue to develop our quick recall of one more and one less than a given number.
- We will also be exploring and recalling all the different ways to make number bonds up to six (**how many ways do you know to make 5?**)
- The children will continue to develop their mathematical language when talking about 2D shapes (**sides, corners, flat**) and 3D shapes (**faces, edges, vertices, solid**)
- We will explore measuring the mass of different objects and the capacity of different containers using a range of equipment.
- The children will continue to explore pattern.
- Doubling, halving and sharing will also continue to be investigated.

### How can I help / information for helping

Share a variety of books at home with your child.  
Discuss vocabulary with your child when sharing stories at night time.  
Use non-fiction books to find information.  
Practise writing the new sounds of the week using accurate letter formation. If your child requires extra challenge: Could your child write a word containing the sound or write a sentence containing the word.

### Practise accurate letter formation

When your child is writing at home, please encourage them to start their letters in the correct place.

### How can I help / information for Helping

Practise finding/ saying 1 more and 1 less than a given number to 6.  
Play with dice: roll a dice, what number has it landed on? How do you know?  
How many different ways can you make 5 with 5 sweets?  
Spot 2D and 3D shapes in the environment. Can your child name the shapes and describe their properties?

Challenge: Explore the value of money. How many different ways can you pay for a toy that costs 4p/ 5p? Challenge: If you paid with a 10p, how much change would you get back?

Phonics	Personal, Social & Emotional Development	Physical Development
<p><b>Focus is:</b> The children will begin to learn Set 2 sounds: ay, ee, igh, ow, oo,(moon) oo,(look) ar, or, air, ir, ou, oy</p> <p>The children will continue to recap all set 1 sounds taught so far. They will also be practising their blending and segmenting skills in order to read and write words.</p> <p>The children will continue to recognise, read and spell tricky words: I, the, you, your, said, no, to, me, we, my.</p> <p>They will also learn new tricky words: he, she, be, all, of, are</p> <p>The new sounds of the week and tricky words will be shared with you each week via Tapestry. Don't forget to share your child's homework on Tapestry by posting a photo.</p>	<p>This term the children will carry out a circle time each week. During this time they will focus on particular issues or changes that are occurring inside or outside of school. If there is anything that you wish for us to address or discuss in circle time please speak to a member of staff.</p>	<p><b>Focus is:</b> Gymnastics</p> <p><b>Skills / knowledge to be developed:</b> There will be lots of opportunity for the children to continue to develop their <b>gross motor skills</b> and be physically active through the provision of large building equipment, water channel construction and play, as well as large scale painting and drawing.</p> <p>Exciting <b>fine motor</b> activities will be provided within the classroom for the children to access. These will help the children improve their pencil control as well as strength and stamina when writing.</p> <p>PE will continue to be on a Monday this half term.</p> <p>Please remember to send your child to school in their PE kits every Monday.</p>
<p><b>How can I help / Information for helping</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spot and practise our new sounds when reading books with your child.</li> <li>Continue to practise: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- fluent recall of the Set 1 and 2 RWI sounds;</li> <li>- recognition and spelling of tricky words taught so far.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>How can I help / Information for helping</b></p> <p>If you have any concerns about your child, please let us know.</p>	<p><b>How can I help / information for helping</b></p> <p>Please continue to encourage your child to zip up their coat and blow their nose.</p>

Expressive Arts and Design	Understanding the World
<p><b>Focus is:</b> A variety of media and materials will be available in the classroom for the children to independently express themselves. Throughout the term the children will explore colour mixing using powder paints, ready mixed paint and water colours. There will also be the opportunity to create dens on a large and small scale outside using natural materials. Small world areas linked to Winter and Dinosaurs will also be set up for the children to create stories and engage in imaginative play with their peers.</p>	<p><b>Focus is:</b> The children will observe the changes that occur outside during Winter and animals ; and learn about dinosaurs, their habitats; diets and size. Reception will also be investigating:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Which is the quickest and safest method to melt ice?</li> <li>What's the same and what's different in the outside environment in Winter, compared to Autumn?</li> <li>How do animals find food and shelter in the Winter?</li> <li>Why do some animals hibernate in the Winter?</li> <li>What is a dinosaur? Is a bird a dinosaur?</li> </ul>

Homework	Any Other Information / Dates for the Diary
<p><u>Ongoing Homework</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Reading:</b> Books will continue to be sent home on a Friday. Please make sure you put a comment in the reading record each time you hear your child read. Books will only be changed if they have been read at home.</li> <li>• <b>Please note</b> that the library books that the children bring home (in addition to their RWI books and ditty sheets), are books for them to share with you. The children are not expected to be able read all the words in these. Only the sound blending books and ditties, are pitched at your child's level. The library book is purely for the purpose of developing a further literacy link between home and school and, most importantly, to encourage a shared love of reading.</li> <li>• <b>Phonics Homework:</b> This half term our homework will focus on sound recognition and letter formation linked to the sounds we are learning in school. Please encourage your child to practise their letter formation and new sounds. Extra practise at home makes a huge difference when writing in class. For an extra challenge: Could your child write a word containing the sound or write a sentence containing the word.</li> </ul>	<p>W/C 15th January – Shadwell in Bloom art competition in school</p> <p>Monday 22nd January – FOSS film night after school</p> <p>5th- 11th February – Children's Mental</p> <p>Tuesday 6th February – Safer Internet Day</p> <p>Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February – Maths Stay and Play 9am – 10am</p>

Thank you, as always, for your continuous help and support. If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us.

The Reception Team