Autumn 2 2026 Newsletter - Reception

Message from class teachers

Welcome back, everyone! Thank you all for the warm welcome you have given me so far. It has been lovely getting to know the children.
I hope you all had a restful break and are ready for another busy and exciting half term at Whalton. This newsletter gives an overview of the children's learning over the coming weeks.
PE will be on a Thursday, with Forest School every other Friday, so please make sure your child has their PE kit in school on those days.
If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask.
Best wishes, Mr Morris and Miss Bowen

~Class Information~

~Home Reading~

Children will be bringing home Read, Write Inc phonics cards. We follow a specific order and when children confidently know their pure sounds we will add more and more sounds. When these are embedded we will start with our sound blending books.



~Google Classroom~

We will continue to update Google Classroom weekly to let you know what your children have been doing. If you are having any problems accessing this, please get in touch with school.

~Expressive arts and design~

We'll be getting creative this half term as the children explore lots of exciting ways to express themselves! We'll be experimenting with colours, shapes and patterns through painting, collage and digital art, taking inspiration from famous artists along the way. The children will also have fun exploring how to make moving pictures using simple sliders and levers, as well as using their imaginations through role-play, storytelling and nativity activities. There will be plenty of opportunities to get messy, try new ideas and create something wonderful!

~Commando Joes~

Through playful, age-appropriate challenges and adventures, we'll be developing important skills such as teamwork, communication, resilience and problem-solving. The children will be encouraged to work together, share ideas, help their friends and keep trying when things get a little tricky! We'll also be building confidence, celebrating everyone's individual strengths and learning that, with a positive attitude and a little determination, we can achieve wonderful things together!

~Physical Development~

There will be lots of opportunities for our Reception children to get moving and develop their physical skills this half term! Through outdoor play, movement games and practical challenges, we'll be building our balance, coordination and confidence as we explore different ways to move. We'll also be developing our fine motor skills through activities such as painting, cutting, sticking, building and creating moving pictures. These fun, hands-on experiences will help strengthen little hands, improve control and coordination, and encourage the children to become increasingly confident and independent in their play.

~Literacy~

Our Reception children will be continuing their **Read Write Inc.** journey! Through fun, engaging phonics lessons, we'll be learning new letter sounds, practising how to form letters correctly and beginning to blend sounds together to read simple words. We'll also be developing our listening and speaking skills through stories, rhymes and lots of opportunities to talk. As their confidence grows, the children will begin using their phonics knowledge to spell and write simple words too. We'll be celebrating every little step as our young readers and writers develop their skills!
In handwriting, the children will be building on their work from last half term by writing recognisable letters.

~Mathematics~

Our Reception children will be having lots of fun exploring **numbers, shapes and patterns** through practical activities, games and hands-on learning! We'll be developing our understanding of numbers up to 5, practising counting, recognising small amounts without counting and finding one more or one less. We'll also be exploring circles, triangles, squares and rectangles, spotting shapes in the world around us and using them to create our own pictures and designs. There will be plenty of opportunities to investigate, solve problems and build confidence in our early maths skills through play!
We will also use rhyme and music to help the children understand the wonder of number in familiar songs like, 'Three Blind Mice.'

~Understanding the World~

Our Reception children will be busy exploring the world around them, starting with our lovely village of Whalton! We'll be discovering more about our school and local area, spotting buildings, natural features and familiar landmarks, as well as exploring simple maps and routes. As Christmas approaches, we'll also be learning about the Nativity story, discovering why Christmas is special to Christians and exploring how they celebrate. Through stories, outdoor adventures and hands-on activities, we'll be encouraging the children to ask questions, make discoveries and develop their curiosity about the world!