

The Year Ahead - Reception

Introduction:

During the second year of the Foundation Stage in the Early Years centre, we aim to ease the transition between Early Years and school, thereby enabling each girl to grow in confidence and to develop the academic and social skills needed to equip her for future challenges in school life. We provide a sound and secure basis from which the girls can progress on to the next stage of learning with confidence, enthusiasm and enjoyment. The girls will study a variety of curriculum areas including Music, Swimming, P.E. Information and Communication Technology and Ballet, complementing the 6 core areas of Problem Solving, Reasoning and Numeracy, Communication, Language and Literacy, Knowledge and Understanding of the World and Creative Development and Personal, Social and Emotional Development.

The nature of the way the Foundation Stage Curriculum is taught in the purpose-built Early Years Centre, together with the high adult to pupil ratio means all the girls are treated as unique and their talents and interests can be nurtured to ensure they achieve their full potential. Thus, girls are identified as Gifted or Talented in different areas of the Foundation stage curriculum during Reception as appropriate.

English: (Communication, Language and Literacy)

The girls are encouraged to talk, by surrounding them with experiences that promote language and clear expression of their thoughts as well as developing their listening skills. In order to provide a sound structure from which they can develop skills in reading and writing we employ a mixture of phonics and 'Look and Say'. Children will be taught to read and write using Jolly Phonics. The 42 main sounds of English are taught, not just the sounds of the alphabet. We introduce the Jolly Phonics towards Cursive Handwriting scheme from the very beginning, encouraging the correct formation of the individual characters so that the 'flow' develops automatically. A sheet for guidance is attached.

HELP WITH READING:

During her first year in Reception we will hear your daughter read on most days. She will also bring her reading book home every evening. You can help her gain confidence and fluency in the following ways :

- Find 10 - 15 minutes every day to sit down together away from other distractions and share her reading book. It is best to avoid reading in the car.
- Encourage her to look for clues about the story in the pictures and to discuss the pictures.
- Talk about the pages or stories she has read.
- Help her to sound out new words.
- Always praise your daughter's reading, without putting pressure on her to do more.

Mathematical Development (Problem Solving, Reasoning and Numeracy):

Mathematics is largely based on practical activities and related to the girls' own experiences. They are encouraged to explore relationships of:

Measure : sequencing events, o'clock, capacity, length, weight and money

Number : sorting, counting and ordering numbers

Size and Shape : 2D and 3D shape, pattern, positional and directional language

Develop logical thinking, problem solving and estimating: simple practical addition and subtraction problems.

Parents are welcomed into school to assist with Maths and Literacy, details of which are provided nearer the date.

Topic Themes:

Science, ICT, history, geography, creative development and technology, are all covered in our thematic approach encompassed in Knowledge and Understanding of the world. Themes for the coming year include: Patterns, Ourselves, Growth, Life Cycles and Animals.

Throughout the year we will be undertaking some visits and having visitors to the class to reinforce the topic work. You will be notified of these nearer the time.

Homework:

Daily reading for 10 - 15 minutes to be undertaken quietly at home with an adult. Along with reading books and word boxes, dictations will also be sent home later on.

Your daughter will bring home a 'Sound Sheet' so that you can see the sound that has been taught and can join in with the actions. As the letter sounds are introduced they are stuck in a 'Sound Book' which is brought home daily. Please go through the book with your daughter because she will find it easier to remember the sounds. Dictations will be sent home so that your daughter can practise hearing the sounds in words and writing the letters that correspond to these sounds. Maths games/activities are sent home each half term to reinforce topics covered in class. Termly targets are also set individually to suit the needs of your daughter within CLL (Communication, Language and Literacy), PSED (Personal, Social and Emotional Development, (PSRN) Problem Solving, Reasoning and Numeracy.

All this sounds like a great amount of hard work, but it is divided into easy stages and spread over a considerable length of time. A little most days is very helpful. Often children are tired after school and may not be receptive to more activities. It is better to leave it than to push too hard. The learning is meant to be done in a relaxed and playful way. The whole family can join in. There is no doubt that support on your part, at this stage, is well worth it. An early start to reading and writing is invaluable to your child.

How parents can help:

Parents' support is vital in all aspects of your daughter's education. We believe firmly in the three way partnership between child, parent and school.

Throughout the year the girls will be encouraged to maximise their individual abilities. Our intention is to encourage the girls to be happy, caring, independent people with a high self-esteem and a lively enquiring mind.

Parents can help by ensuring that their daughter is in school on time for a prompt start at 8.30am.

Parents can also help by supporting any work that may be sent home. Every girl will be set simple, achievable targets throughout the year. Parents can play a very useful role in helping their daughter to achieve her targets. Details of the targets are placed in the front of the message book.

Message books are for short messages only. A letter is still required for notification of absence or more confidential matters.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE FIRST WEEK :

Monday 5 th September 2011	Time to be arranged
Tuesday 6 th September 2011	Time to be arranged
Wednesday 7 th September 2011	8.30am – 3.20pm (First full day)

(Details of which time you have been allocated will be sent to you by the Admissions Secretary).

Please bring your daughter to the front gate entrance of the Early Years Centre by the pond from 8.30am for morning drop off. Please collect your daughter from Vincent House playground in the afternoon. If it is raining, then your daughter will be dismissed from under the covered walkway, which is on route to the Early Years Centre.

School photographs are taken on Monday 5th September 2011. Please take your daughter to the Senior Hall to have her photograph taken after her morning session or before her afternoon session.