



Brecknock Primary School

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Tuesday, 18 January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a great start to the new term, with children picking up from where they left off in their learning. The Reception team hope everyone enjoyed the Christmas holidays and you were able to spend some time with family and friends. The children have returned joyful and refreshed, ready for the new term ahead. This term is filled with many exciting projects, themes and activities. Our topics this term are 'Once Upon a Time' and 'Plants and Growing'.



We continue our whole school theme, **Time to Talk; Time to Change**, where we will continue to develop our oracy skills to help us make positive changes in our community and beyond. We are looking forward to the chance to showcase our developing speaking skills on **World Speech Day** later in the term.

We will also be commemorating **Martin Luther King Day** and **Holocaust Memorial Day** this month, thinking about rights, promoting **equality and social justice**.

Rights Respecting Children

As a **Gold Rights Respecting school**, we consistently focus on the rights of the child and how these help us to develop an understanding of respect and empathy for others. At the start of this term, every class has created their class charter, underpinned by the Brecknock school values.



In class, the children are praised for excellent work, participation and following the class charter and whole school values. Children are rewarded with stickers linked to the school value they have demonstrated. These values are celebrated at the end of each day.

Values focus

One of our whole school resolutions is to focus more on being **healthy**, one of our important school values. As part of this focus we will be developing children's understanding of how to be and stay healthy, including discussions about healthy eating, the important of physical activity, sleep and looking after their mental well-being.



As you may already know, as part of this we will be taking steps to becoming a water only school and we will send out information about other initiatives we are taking to become even healthier.

Learning in Reception

The **attached leaflet and learning planner** gives you an overview of the learning that will be taking place this term in your child's year group. Through our 'Once Upon a Time' topic the children will be listening to lots of traditional tales and re-telling them, both orally and through writing. We will get into role as characters from the stories and perform them to our friends. Our topic after half term will be 'Plants and Growing'. We will learn about the life-cycle of a plant, plant seeds of our own and watch them grow into plants.

All classes in EYFS use **Learning Planners** to support children to learn. The learning planners will be sent to you at the beginning of each term via Parent Hub. Please also keep an eye out for 'This week in Reception' on the notice board and on Parent Hub. This gives you detailed information about what the children will be learning each week.

Attendance and Punctuality

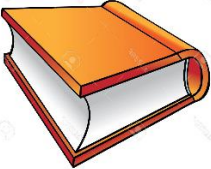

We understand that reaching 100% daily attendance is challenging at this time. **We encourage you to monitor your child's attendance using Parent Hub to ensure their attendance remains excellent. Please ensure you download the Parent Hub App to access your child's profile.**


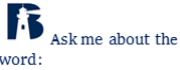
We send the majority of the schools communications via email, including the newsletter which is sent every Thursday and uploaded to the school website. Letters for trips, dinner money and anything in relation to finance is sent via your ParentPay account. We also send short messages that we need to communicate with you quickly through the Parent Hub app.

The school **gates open at 8:50am** in order for lessons to **start at 9.00am**. **Please ensure you follow the one way systems in place to allow for social distancing.**

Home Learning

Home Learning	Please ensure your child comes to school every day with their book bag; school has supplied one for your child. Please do read and sign the reading journal – your class teacher will have added a key question about the picture story book your child has selected to take home. You can change the picture story book as often as required and we do encourage this! Your child will also take home two levelled books each week . Please ask your child to read this to you daily and celebrate their success.
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	<p>To support their phonics learning, your child will be provided with Phase 2 and Phase 3 phonics resources and flashcards. Please do practise these sounds at home.</p> <p>In EYFS the children will be learning poems and songs regularly as this will help develop their oracy skills. We will share these with you as your child may enjoy performing them for you.</p>
<p>Reading</p> 	<p>Parental and guardian support is hugely important for developing reading skills, confidence and understanding. Even if children are independent readers, we still encourage parents to read with them or listen to them and discuss the books they are reading.</p> <p>Children need to read at home for at least 10 minutes a day and complete a short daily reflection ('I enjoyed this book because...' 'It was funny when...' or alternatively an adult can write the comment for them) in their reading records.</p> <p>When reading stories with your child, encourage your child to look at the front cover of a book. Ask them questions such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What do they think the book will be about? • Why do they think this? • Encourage your child to talk about the pictures in the story book. • Who is in the story? • What is happening? • Where is it happening? <p>This will help your child answer 'who, what and where' questions supporting the development of their comprehension skills. You can challenge your child further by asking them 'why' and 'how' questions.</p> <p>Children's reading records and current reading book should be brought to school every day as they are sometimes used, and referred to, in lessons.</p>
<p>Phonics</p> 	<p>Phonics lessons take place twice daily in Reception and form the foundations for learning to read and write. Last term your child received a Sound Booklet appropriate to the phase of Letters and Sounds they are learning. The books are an opportunity for parents and carers to practise reading with their child and they are also a useful communication tool between school and home, helping you to understand what your child is working on now and what their next steps will be. As you will also be aware, we are developing our approach to phonics teaching in line with the Little Wandle programme and further information and support with this will be coming throughout the term.</p> <p>We recommend that you use the book for around 5 minutes per day. It can be helpful to set a timer or a target, such as a number of pages, for your child so that they have an achievable goal. When you feel that your child confidently knows all of the sounds and tricky words in the book, please return to the class teacher. They will then celebrate this with your child and assign the next phase booklet.</p>
<p>Fluency in maths</p>	<p>In Reception, supporting your child with the following will help to develop your child's fluency in maths.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage your child to help you when out shopping by counting and collecting objects to put into the basket, e.g. 'Can you get 2 apples?' • Play simple board games and encourage your child to count the spots shown on the dice and the number of spaces to move. • Sing number-themed counting rhymes and use your fingers or small props to help count the items, e.g. 10 Green Bottles. • Go on a number hunt! Look for numbers when you are at home or outside e.g. door numbers, car registration numbers or on food packets or in magazines. Ask your child to read the numbers to you.
<p>New words</p> <div data-bbox="113 645 357 833" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">  </div>	<p>Direct vocabulary teaching takes place every day. Each Friday, children choose one of their new words to wear on a sticker. We encourage you to speak to your child about their chosen word each week as this will help them to deepen their understanding of the word and to develop their oracy skills!</p>

Reading books and reading records should be kept in the book bag as these are used/referred to regularly in class. Letters for trips and other correspondence will be issued through Parent Hub. Newsletters are sent via Parent Hub every Thursday and will also appear on the website.

PE

PE will take place every **Wednesday**. Children **will not be changing for PE** so please ensure they wear appropriate clothes for physical activity on these days, including trainers.

Please see below, a list of key dates. These will be updated when necessary and we will share any updated via the newsletter and the notice board by the school office. As always, we are available at pickup to discuss any queries at the end of each school day.

Kind regards,

The Reception Team

Key term dates—Spring term 2022

Date	Event	Time
Tuesday 11th January	Spoken Word Project trip to The Criterion Theatre	1.30 - 3.30pm
Tuesday 18th January	Nursery Tour	5.00 - 6.00pm
Friday 21st January	Fire Safety Workshop for Year 2 and 5	9.30 - 2.20pm
Friday 21st January	Nursery Tour	9.30 - 10.30am
Wednesday 26th January	Nursery Open Day	9.30 - 10.30am
Wednesday 2nd February	Nursery Tour	9.30 - 10.30am
Monday 14th - Friday 18th February	Half Term	School Closed for all children
Monday 21st February	School Reopens	All children return to school
Thursday 3rd March	World Book Day	All day for all children
Monday 7th - Friday 11th March	Science Week	All week for all children
Wednesday 23rd March	Camden Spring Festive for the Brecknock Choir	All Day
Friday 1st April	Last Day of Term	School closes at 2pm for all children