

# Curriculum Information

## Reception Autumn 1



Hello everyone and welcome to Reception! I just want to take this opportunity to say how excited I am to be working with the children this year. Already they are showing great enthusiasm and a positive attitude for school life so I can't wait to start our adventures together! Our topic this half term is "All about me" with a focus on the big question "Who am I?" Throughout our topic we will be looking closely at ourselves and our families as well as the community we live in. We will take a geographical approach through exploring maps to find where we live and who lives with us in our house. We will also look at the history of our lives and observe how we have changed from being babies to the present day and our dreams for the future. This will lead us to creating our own presentations ready to showcase at our first parent event later in the term.

Throughout Reception we will share your child's progress through "Marvellous Me" including whole class, small group and individual learning. All children's books will be changed every Monday and your child will be read with x3 times per week following our reading sessions (more information below) These books **must** be kept in their book bags for use at school. We will also take a visit to our school Library once a week where your child can choose a book share with you at home. P.E will be on a Tuesday and Thursday - your child needs to come in their P.E kit on these days.

## Maths

This half term we will be focusing on numbers 1-5 including recognising numerals, counting forwards and backwards and making amounts. We will also be identifying and making patterns using a variety of resources.

Throughout the home setting maths will occur naturally however there are a few things you can do to support your child with their school focus for this half term.

- Going on a number hunt in the natural environment (door numbers are great)
- Counting at every opportunity
- Making patterns using a variety of resources (cubes, cars, fruit)
- Mark making numbers with different materials (glitter, shaving foam, sand)
- Download the White Rose App and have a go at some games!

## English

To link with our topic "All about me" We will be focusing on 3 key texts.

**Book 1:** The Everywhere Bear by Julia Donaldson

**Book 2:** Elmer by David McKee

**Book 3:** Rainbow Fish by Marcus Pfister

Throughout these texts we will be focusing on the structure of a story, looking closely at the beginning, middle and end. We will be encouraging children to retell stories using their own words emphasising on the vocabulary used throughout the stories. Visual aids will also be used to sequence stories which is our main focus this half term.

**A few things to do at home to support the above:**

- When reading, pause and ask what might happen next.
- Ask why questions ("why are they sad?")
- Order the story through pictures

## **Phonics**

Our Phonics scheme at Harden Primary is "Little Wandle" The children will start their phonics journey from week 2 (11/9/23) where they will be introduced to the sounds S,A,T,P,I,N The children will rapidly work through the sounds of the scheme and you will see such a huge improvement in their recognition of letters, pronunciation of sounds and quite quickly their formation and spelling. Each time a sound is learnt we will provide a sound card for that letter. These will be in their reading wallets to share with you at home and practice! The children will learn phase 2-4 of the scheme before year 1. These include sounds and "tricky words" (words we can not sound out) More information will be given on phonics so do come and see me if you require some extra guidance. No question is a silly question!

## **Reading**

Linking to our phonics scheme is also our reading sessions. Each Monday your child will be provided with a new little wandle reading book. During the first half term, before sounds have been introduced we will be looking at wordless books with a focus on speech and language and your child telling the story using visual aids as guidance. At school, your child is part of a reading group. Each group has between 6-8 children in. They then read together alongside the teacher or TA x3 times per week following the 3 sessions:

**Session 1 Decoding:** This is the chance to learn the story, learn new vocabulary and explore the structure.

**Session 2 Prosody:** A chance to continue learning the story, look at characters and expression when reading.

**Session 3 Comprehension:** By this stage we hope the children are familiar with the story and need little help. At the end of the story we ask questions to check their understanding.

All guidance for the 3 sessions are in the back of the book for practice at home too.

## **Topic**

Throughout our topic "All About me" The children will look closely at themselves including their likes, dislikes, aspirations and dreams. They will discuss how they have changed from the past to present day including what the differences are from being a baby to now and how they will change as they become older. The children will move onto looking at our body and how we keep it healthy and safe, we will cover body parts, our senses and what a healthy meal looks like. Finally the children will look at their local environment including where they live, they will discuss who is in their family and who lives in their home with them using maps and google earth to support.

## **Technology**

To link into our topic "All about me" The children will be exploring maps. To link with this we will be using the bee-bots on simple maps, encouraging the children to use navigational language. The children will also use the I pads to play mathematical games on the white rose apps and to create images using the painting tool.

## **Expressive Arts and Design**

The children always have access to the design and craft area but these will be complemented with different enhancements and focused activities. This half term we will look at drawing with a focus on sketching. We will be making links to Art through our topic and creating; self and family portraits and creating our own face jigsaws. The Artist we will focus on is Rob Biddulph—an illustrator of many children's books. Check his drawing YouTube channel [www.drawwithrob.com](http://www.drawwithrob.com)

Through music we will start to join in with familiar songs and nursery rhymes whilst exposing the children to new songs with a rhyming pattern. We will also be introducing musical instruments.

## Physical Development

**Gross Motor:** Use of outdoor area, building dens, spatial awareness, using climbing frame equipment, being safe, building obstacle courses.

**P.E Focus:** Introduction to P.E & Ball skills following our scheme Get set for P.E

**Fine Motor:** Name writing, pattern making using different materials (sand, flour playdough) threading and weaving, fastening coat, putting on shoes and playdough.

## R.E

This half term our big question links to our topic:  
**Where do we live and who lives there?**

We will cover R.E each half term for 1 whole day. Where possible we link to as many other areas of the curriculum throughout this day including music, communication and language, writing and art.

## PSHE

This half term we will be looking at: helping others, caring for other peoples feelings, working well with others, starting school and responsibilities.

At Harden we also follow **My Happy Mind:** A wellbeing programme for primary children taught through a story. Our focus story this half term is Berty and Betty's play date. The activities will then look at: What does our brain help with? Difference between happy and sad and How do our brains work?

## Home Learning

**Reading** - As week 2 begins your child will be sent home with a reading book. These books begin without words to really deepen their comprehension skills. Once phonics has begun your child will then be sent home with a book with words to compliment the sounds taught in phonics. When reading to your child or hearing them read to you ask questions about what they have read to check their comprehension and that they have understood it. Encourage them to answer questions with explanations rather than 'because I think so'.

**Words** - As sounds are taught, flashcards will be sent home to practice. We recommend you do some sort of reading or phonics work daily to consolidate work completed at school but we understand that as the children start school it's sometimes just too tiring so don't worry too much as they have lots of practice when in school!

**Marvellous me** - Here you will find observations of things your child has done at school. This might be a wow piece of writing or maths or their amazing creating in the construction area. We aim for a variety of observations per half term. Please expect about x2 per week, per child. Please check this app regularly as it's our contact point for important school messages.

If there is anything you would like to discuss in person please let me know and we can arrange a date and time. If you have any questions please feel free to email me or catch me at pick up/drop off

[Reception@hardenprimaryacademy.co.uk](mailto:Reception@hardenprimaryacademy.co.uk)

Thanks! Miss Roe :)