

Reception, Kestrel Class, Autumn Term 2019



Dear Parents,

Welcome to Stanion Primary School. I look forward to getting to know you all. If you have any concerns or questions, please don't hesitate to come and see me.

During the first few weeks that your child is at school we shall be carrying out baseline assessments. It will involve all Reception staff making observations on each child which will determine at what level your child is operating. In order to get an accurate assessment of your child's on entry level there will be no direct teaching taking place within the class during this time. The aim of the baseline assessment is to give us a benchmark from which to measure their progress throughout their school years. This measure of progress can then be used to identify any children who are not making the necessary progress and to provide any interventions that may be needed.

During your child's reception year, they will be working towards the EARLY LEARNING GOALS as outlined in the EARLY YEARS FOUNDATION STAGE. The goals are divided into seven areas of learning; Three PRIME areas; Personal, Social and Emotional Development, Communication and Language and Physical Development. And four SPECIFIC areas; Mathematics, Literacy, Understanding of the World and Expressive Arts and Design. During the Foundation Stage there is a strong emphasis on learning through play, child initiated and planned. The children will take part in whole class, small group activities, adult led and child initiated activities.

There follows a brief outline of what your child will be covering within each area of learning.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development – our themes will be 'Myself and my Relationships: Beginning and Belonging', 'Myself and my Relationships: My Family and Friends' and 'Myself and My Relationships: My Emotions'. We shall also be thinking about the routines, rules and expectations of our class and school. We shall be helping each other to develop the social skills necessary to be part of a group. We shall explore our own feelings and how our actions can influence other people's feelings.

Communication and Language – we shall be practicing our listening skills, and responding to questions and instructions. There will be lots of opportunities to use our communication skills in small group and whole class sessions and through play activities. We will be working on maintaining our attention and concentration during directed and self-initiated activities. We will be developing our speaking skills through role play and group situations.

Physical Development – we shall be practicing our throwing, catching and kicking skills, hopefully outside if the weather is good enough. We shall be developing our fine motor skills through writing using a variety of tools and materials, using simple tools for cutting, and manipulating malleable materials. We will be doing P.E. on Tuesday and Fridays.

PLEASE MAKE SURE YOUR CHILD HAS THEIR PE KIT IN SCHOOL ON THESE DAYS WITH ALL ITEMS NAMED. EAR-RINGS MUST BE REMOVED ON THESE DAYS IF YOUR CHILD IS TO TAKE PART IN LESSONS.

Mathematics – we shall be doing lots of counting, reading, writing and ordering numbers up to 10 and beyond. We shall be comparing length, weight and capacity. We shall be sorting, recognising and naming 2D shapes. We shall be sorting a variety of different everyday objects.

Literacy - we shall be following the Read, Write Inc. phonics program, learning the letter sounds and names, and using our knowledge of letter sounds to begin building words. We shall be learning to write our names, letters and words using a variety of different mark making tools. There will be lots of opportunities to write inside and outside, guided by an adult and independently. We shall be doing guided reading in small groups to develop reading skills and strategies. We would be grateful if you could read with your children at home and sign their reading record books so that we know to change their book.

Understanding of the World – we shall begin with investigating Ourselves (our families, our pets, our homes and our school). Then we shall be exploring Stories with Repeated Patterns and Traditional Tales about Homes. Through R.E. through the topic **Being Special: Where do we belong?** we will be developing an understanding of how we are different and similar and the different groups we belong to eg football teams, Stanion school, the church family. We will look at **Birthdays**; Why is a birthday special and how do we celebrate it? Then we will explore **Divali**; What is Divali and how is it celebrated? We will be following the **UNDERSTANDING CHRISTIANITY** program looking at the topic of **Incarnation**; Why do Christians perform nativity plays at Christmas? The children will be using computer software (PC's and Learnpads) to reinforce their learning, they will also be using the digital camera, recording devises and programmable toys.

Expressive arts and design – we shall be painting portraits of ourselves and our families. We shall be learning to sing a range of songs and exploring the sounds of instruments. We shall be using a variety of construction sets and materials to construct with a purpose in mind. We will be engaging in a variety of role-play situations.

I'm looking forward to getting to know you all as we work together to make your child's school life a happy and successful one.

Mrs. Hankins
Class Teacher