



Reception Newsletter



Autumn Term 1 2024/25

Welcome to Reception! We hope that you all have a wonderful, well-earned Summer break! We will be sending topic newsletters each half term to keep you up to date with our learning and give you ideas of ways you can support your child at home. Please remember, these are just suggestions.

If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact us.

The Reception Team:	
Moonbeam	Olivia and Jamilla
Rainbow	Amy and Usha (Mon/Fri) and Hayley (Tues-Thurs)
Sunshine	Felicity and Nekay

Our topic this half term is **All About Me.**

We will be focusing on getting to know each other and exploring what makes us special. We will talk about our likes and dislikes, celebrations and festivals we celebrate and our families.

<u>Key Words</u>	<u>Books to read at home</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Celebration - Birthday - Facial Features - Past - Now - Memories - Festival - Similar / Different 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Zaza's Baby Brother - It's OK to be different - Be You - Super Duper You - All Kinds of People - The Same But Different Too - Families Families Families - Sharing A Shell

Ideas to try at home

- Have a look at a family photo album (or make one if you don't have one already). Talk about the different members of your family.
- Use a mirror to draw self-portraits.
- Design and write a card for a family member's upcoming birthday (or a different celebration / festival).



Paper Plate SELF PORTRAITS

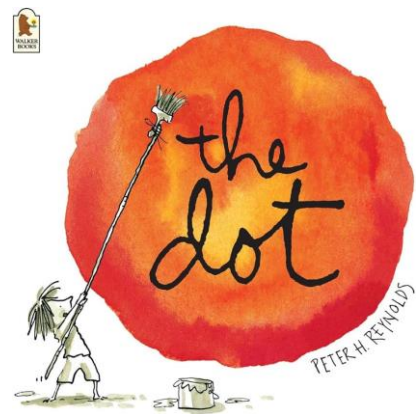
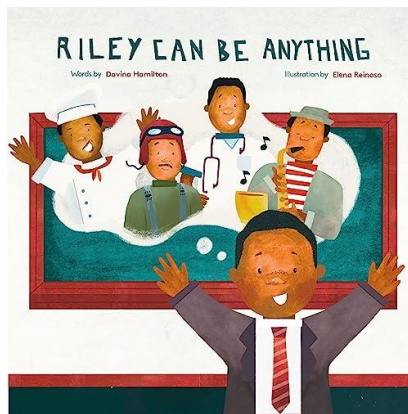
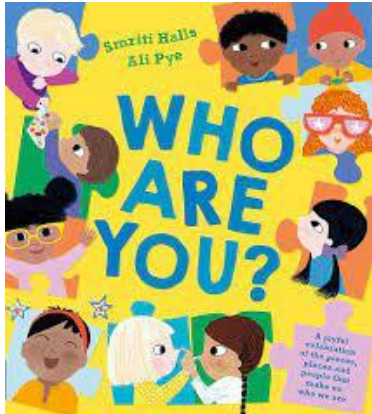




Literacy - This half term, we will be reading a variety of texts, including *Postie Bear, Who Are You,? Riley Can Be Anything* and *The Dot*.

Our activities will include writing gift tag labels, designing invitations and playing party games.

There will be a particular focus on writing our names. To support your child, give them plenty of opportunities to find and recognise their name at home, as well as lots of practise writing their names.



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Phonics – In phonics, the children will be learning the sounds made by the letters *s, a, t, p, i, n*. Our main focus for the half term will be ensuring the children are able to recognise the letters, know the sounds that they make and blend them together to read words.

When word reading, we will teach the children to say each sound individually and then blend those sounds together to say the word. To help children with this, we use a strategy in school called ‘Duck Hands’ which you can encourage them to use at home.

Please attend our Phonics Workshop on 30th September if you would like to learn more about how we teach phonics.



Duck Hands

Can you use your duck hands
and eat your sounds?

What do you think the word is?

Don't forget to use your eagle
eye first as this can help you
spot those tricky digraphs and
trigraphs!

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Reading – One of the most effective ways you can support your child with their academic progress and development, is through reading together regularly. Your child will receive a book from school which they should look after, and bring into school each day.



Children should be reading at home with an adult every day.

We will start off the term sending home ‘sharing books’ for you to read with your child at home. Once they start learning phonics, they will begin reading banded books which are phonetically levelled. Your child should be reading these books to you every day, starting with recognising the sounds on the front inside page.

Please sign your child’s reading record each day to show they are reading regularly and so they can earn



rewards in school. Please note, there is a £5 charge for lost books.

Maths - This half term we will be matching and sorting objects, exploring patterns, and mastering numbers 1 – 3 (including how each of those numbers are composed).

You can support your child at home by:

- Matching games such as snap
- Go on a leaf hunt and then sort those leaves into groups. Can you sort them by colour? Shape? Size?
- Place one, two or three objects in a bag. Ask your child to feel how many there are. Can they count without looking?

We hope you can join us at our parents’ workshop on 23rd October to learn more about maths at Bessemer.

Physical Development - Children in Reception are always on the move, both indoors and outdoors. Please make sure they wear comfortable shoes that they can run around and climb in every day.

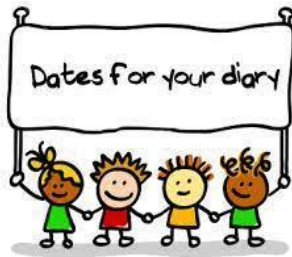
As we spend a lot of time outdoors in our lovely playground, please ensure your child brings a coat to school. We also visit the nature garden every week, please provide your child with a pair of wellie boots or an old pair of trainers if you can. These can either be brought to school daily or left on your child’s peg in a named bag.

Other information -

- Please ensure all your child’s belongings are labelled (especially jumpers! An unlabelled jumper can sometimes be impossible to find!)
- Please ensure your child brings a coat and other outdoor clothing if needed.
- Each child has a reading folder with your child’s current reading book and their yellow reading diary. These should be brought into school every day.

Donations – In Early Years, we strive to give the children practical, real-world experiences which enhance their learning and their understanding of the world. Unfortunately, our budget doesn’t stretch to providing all of the activities we would like to offer. If you feel able to support us in this area we would be hugely grateful for any donation you feel able to make, which we will put towards things such as baking ingredients or gardening supplies - this half term, one of our activities will be planting spring bulbs in the Early Years garden. If you are able to make a donation at any point during the year please give it to your child’s teacher.

We are also grateful for any donations of clean sheets to use for den-making, toys such as Lego, and junk modelling materials such as loo rolls and cardboard boxes. Thank you!



30.09.24 – Reception Phonics and Reading Workshop, 9.15am
8.10.24 – Flu immunisations in school
8.10.24 – 9.10.24 – Parents' Evening
23.10.24 – Reception Maths Workshop, 9.15am

Over the term we will be sharing examples of the work your children will be doing in class on our year group webpage: <https://www.thegemfederation.co.uk/bessemer-primary/learning-hub/classes/>