

Welcome to the Spring Term



Dear Reception Parents/Carers

Happy New Year to you all. We have had a wonderful start to 2023 with a whole school Science week called: Start the New Year with a Bang. Our topic was based on a book called 'All Afloat on Noah's Boat'. We made boats and tested if they could float; made rainbow bubble snakes, rainbow in a jar, bursting rainclouds and a favourite was a skittles rainbow. It was great fun.



The children have all come back really settled and have impressed us with their 'ready to learn' attitudes.

Staff Changes

Mrs Brice has been able to increase her time with us. She will be working on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. Mrs Bush will be with the class on Tuesday and Thursday mornings until break time and then all day on Wednesday. We will continue to be supported by Mrs Bunce and Miss Ballinger. We also have a student teacher with us, Miss Searle, on Thursdays and Fridays.

Curriculum

Our Early Year's staff have been busy creating a comprehensive long term plan to ensure our curriculum offers a wide range of opportunities for the children to engage in activities and experiences that will support learning and development. Please visit the school website to find out more about our long and medium term plans and what our Early Years curriculum looks like. These are some of the new things we will be implementing:

Clubs: Each half term children will have the opportunity to join clubs during the school day. These will include: sports, cooking, singing, gardening clubs and lots more. At the end of each half term children will be awarded a certificate and sticker to show which 'clubs' they have participated in. We have done this as we recognise that since covid, and now because of financial difficulties, being able to access a club outside of school hours is more challenging.

If you have any skills or interests that you think the children would benefit from in the form of a club, please speak to a member of staff as we would welcome your contribution enormously.

WOW: Each half term we plan to arrange a **Week of Walks (WOW)** and hope to take groups of children for walks around our local area. This will include seasonal walks along the railway line, walks around our parks, walks along the river and walks through the town.

To enable this to happen we need parent volunteers. If you are able to volunteer, either occasionally or regularly, please let Reception staff know. We would love to be able to create a list of parents that can be contacted to support during these kinds of activities.

Faith, Festivals and Foreign Languages: We endeavour to be a fully inclusive setting and recognise how important it is children feel they belong within our school community. To achieve this, we will be exploring

the languages that children hear and speak within their homes and with their families. We want to also embrace the range of faiths, festivals and customs that our children celebrate.

We would love for parents to share with us what these celebrations mean to them and help us to plan how we can join in with these celebrations within nursery. Please chat to us at the door or email us reception@georgegrenville.co.uk.

The Outdoor Learning Environment

To further strengthen the link between the nursery and reception class we are developing the shared space at the front of both classes. You will have already seen that a new fence and gate have been installed, this will allow the area to be used by either nursery, by reception or moving into the summer term by both classes to support transition.

This area will be set up daily for learning and development opportunities. Can we please ask that when waiting to drop off or collect children any items explored by the children are returned to where they were found.

PE Days

These will remain on Wednesday and Friday each week. Please can they come to school dressed in their full PE kit on those days. The children's PE teacher will be Mr Goodwin or Mr Peacock, supported by Mrs Bunce and Miss Ballinger.

Our Super Stars

We would like to celebrate your child's achievements and milestones outside of school. This could be riding their bike without stabilisers, trying a new food, swimming, looking after a plant. Whenever they achieve something like this please can you email us so we can celebrate with them.

We will also be celebrating their successes in school with a child receiving Star of the Day each day and once a week a child will receive Star of the Week. When we start attending whole school assemblies we will be sending out an invitation for you to attend the assembly if your child receives Star of the Week.

Reading at Home

Reading books are changed once a week, on a **Friday**. We will progress your child through the stages of books as they learn new sounds and become more confident with blending these to make words and read with greater fluency. To help your child to learn to read, we expect parents to read to and/or listen to your child read, at least 5 times a week. Creating a love of reading in children is potentially one of the most powerful ways of improving academic achievement.

Communicating with you

A weekly update will be sent home to let you know what we have been doing and what is to come. We also love receiving emails about what the children are doing at home. They love sharing this with us and their classmates writing they do at home, special occasions or achievements. So please keep sending them in. This is the best way to communicate with us if you have any questions or need to let us know anything that would be useful for us to know. reception@georgegrenville.co.uk

We are looking forward to many more amazing moments with your children. Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards

Mrs Brice, Mrs Bush, Miss Ballinger, Mrs Bunce and Miss Searle.