



# DALLINGTON SCHOOL

Early Years Foundation Stage

NEWSLETTER - AUTUMN  
RECEPTION





Dear Parents,

This year started off like a welcome home. We were so excited to see all the children again after such a long period of online learning and a different end to the school year. Coming back into Reception we have been amazed at how focused and enthusiastic the children were from day one. It was as if they had never been away.

We have focused heavily on the personal, social, and emotional development area of the curriculum this term to ease the children back into the school routine and focusing on the importance of relationships within the classroom. Through stories we have spoken about how characters feel and how we should treat each other. How to share and how to talk about our feelings and come to a compromise with our friends.

Within the physical development area self-care has obviously been of utmost importance this term due to the increased hygiene measures we have learnt to follow. Through songs, including the now famous "Bubble Chant" and stories they have once again learnt why and how we need to wash our hands, use gel and be aware of our personal space. We even showed the children how "germs" need soap to remove them and not just water through different science experiments.

With Mr Hadley in physical education lessons the children have been improving their gross motor skills and fundamental movement, by learning to catch and throw balls and bean bags. Also, they have learnt how to travel in a variety of different ways, such as jumping, hopping and rolling to the theme of animals and superheroes. They have also worked on their balance and agility using different obstacle courses and playing games, such as 'tag' and different relay races that have encouraged the children to work together and create fair play and sportsmanship. In recent weeks we have started some basic tag-rugby drills and have been concentrating on taking the tags. This will continue up until Christmas.

As part of our communication and language work we have encouraged the children to use full sentences when answering questions and to begin thinking of questions for themselves. Instead of answering the children directly we ask other children to answer a friend's question thereby causing a 'debate' amongst the class. Extended vocabulary for family members, potion making and now autumn has also been worked on to enable the children to have a wider vocabulary base to draw from when speaking in class.





In literacy introducing sounds from phase 2 (s,a,t,p,i,n,m,d and g) has been a big part this half term. As well as introducing the sound we are also teaching the children the letter stories so that they are also able to write the sounds by themselves. We have continued practising oral blending and segmenting that we focused on at the end of last year and we have all been very impressed at how quickly the children have understood these difficult concepts. We have also read numerous stories including many Winnie the Witch which have been the children's favourite this term. By stopping halfway through we have also asked the children what they believe may happen next and created story maps to show our ideas. This allows the children to use their creative and imaginative sides as well as encouraging them to share ideas and use English.

Maths has concentrated on revising what we learnt last year including number, quantity, and recognition. Our day begins with the calendar so the children are not only learning the date but also yesterday's date and what day tomorrow will be too. Number sequencing is also a large part of maths here at the beginning of Reception and as well as ordering numbers they are also now able to recognise some. The concept of 'one more' has also been introduced with autumn objects such as conkers and leaves and we pose the question "how many will there be if we add one more?" for example.

Understanding the world has revolved much around the changing season this term and how we began with one type of weather and now have another. The children have learnt how to describe what they can see outside as well as what they can smell, hear, and feel. By using all their senses, we create multisensorial activities that give them a better grasp of the concept.





Autumn has also been our focus for our expressive arts and design this term. We have seen Andy Goldsworthy's work in detail and explained to each other what objects from nature he used in his work. After our autumn walk around the school and some objects we brought from home the children tried to recreate some of his work and then tried to make their own using the conkers, chestnuts, pine cones etc that we had sourced.

For the rest of the term we will be introducing our Community Heroes topic which will focus on the unsung heroes that help us in our day to day lives including emergency workers, health care professionals and those that they see every day including all school staff. We will then move on to talking about Christmas by reading the story "The Jolly Postman" and encourage children to think about how they can help each other too.

