



Fleet Primary School

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T e d d y T a l e s

Reception Autumn Term

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Reception!

I trust you all had a lovely summer. It has been really nice coming back to a few familiar faces and meeting new families too. Already I am so amazed with how the children have settled in and are starting to gel as a group. There are lots of wonderful new friendships budding.

Thank you for your support with the transition period and to those who welcomed us into their homes for visits. It really does make a big difference to the way the children settle and allows us to spend more time with them on an individual basis.

Myself, Shami, Mimosa and Joanne will be working in Reception this year. Margaret O'Sullivan will take the children on Tuesday afternoons while I have my planning and preparation time.

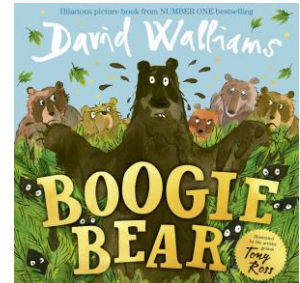
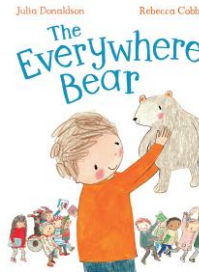
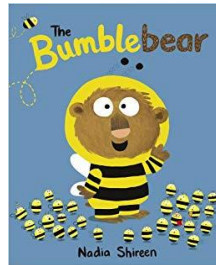
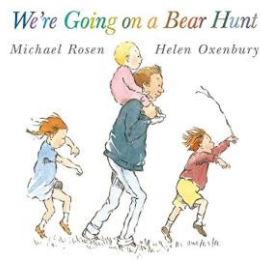
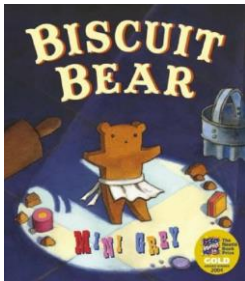
I hope you found the class meeting at the end of the summer term informative. If you were unable to attend or have joined us since the meeting, please feel free to ask me any questions you may have. It can be a little busy in the mornings, but I'm often around after school when it's a bit quieter. We will also have individual parent meetings soon to discuss how your child is settling and I can answer any queries then.

Autumn Term Topic

As many of you know, the curriculum at Fleet is taught largely through a termly topic.

This term our topic is called *Teddy Tales*. Each week we will have a different key text based on Teddy Bears characters. Classic stories such as *We're Going on a Bear Hunt*, *Teddy Bears Picnic* and *Goldilocks and the Three Bears* will feature as well as some more recent texts such as *Biscuit Bear*, *The Everywhere Bear*, *Boogie Bear* and *Bumblebear*. We will do lots of fun and creative activities linked to these stories. During the first couple of weeks, we will use bears, or special toys and a motivator to talk about things that make us feel safe and happy. The children will be able to bring in a special toy from home for a teddy bears picnic. This will also be an opportunity to learn about healthy eating. *Bumblebear* is a lovely story about uniqueness and establishing friendship, we will use this story to help us think about what a good friend looks like and how we can look out

for each other in Reception. Our role-play areas will include, The Three Bears House (home corner), a bakery inspired by Biscuit Bear and a Teddy Bear Hospital. The topic will flow with what the children take the most interest in and the different stories we discover.



Daily Routine

The Early Years Curriculum promotes learning through play. The adults working in the class help to facilitate the children's ideas as well as extending them. We work individually with children and in small groups, aiming to get alongside what they are doing as much as possible. There are also time through-out the day we will run activities such as; maths games, writing tasks, phonics games and art activities.

Along with all of the fabulous play, there is a routine to the day. A typical day starts with a writing activity. After morning break, we have reading and phonics and in the afternoon, Maths. We go to two assemblies each week too.



Reading

During our daily reading sessions, I work with a little group at a time to teach them different reading strategies. We will talk about things such as; searching the pictures for clues, thinking about what the story could be about and what they think the words might say. As the children build up more phonetic understanding, they will begin to decode the words.

They will also have words to learn alongside our phonics programme such as *I*, *the*, and *to*. This will help the children to recognise some words instantly. The benefit of working in a little reading group is the children can share and develop their ideas as we know lots of talk supports their understanding of a book and their confidence to read. After reading in their group, I will read individually with them. They will take home the book they have read in their group and the book they have read individually with me. These 2 books will be changed once a week. Each child will have a book changing day that I will inform you of shortly.

The children can also choose two picture books to take home. I am happy for them to change their picture books whenever they are finished with them.

When reading at home, they will need a lot of support to begin with and we want to make sure it is as enjoyable as possible.

Some strategies you could use are...

- Reading the story first and they read it back.
- Encourage them to finish the sentence.



- Ask them to find the words on the page and point to them.
- Go for a treasure hunt... *Can you find the letter ___?*
- Share the text by reading a page each.

As they learn more letter sounds and high frequency words, they will be able to read more and more by themselves. The aim by the end of Reception is for the children to be able to read a simple sentence independently.



Mathematics

In maths the children will be learning to count reliably to 20, recognise and order numbers to 10 and then 20.

The children will learn how to add small sets and to take away. This will be introduced in meaningful ways, often through their play. We already have a few favourite maths games we play to help us with your number knowledge.

Please pop along to our maths morning later in the term to learn some of these.

Our literacy and maths working walls are a good way to keep up to date with what the children are learning. Please do take a look.

Our topic will inspire lots of creative work. The children will have a variety of opportunities to explore a range of media including paint, collage, junk modelling, puppet-making; working both collaboratively and independently. Some of the projects will include setting up our role-play areas and making props to have in these. Our role play areas will encourage language development and social skills. We will also focus on portraits and nature art this term.



We will be learning plenty of new songs as well as using percussion instruments alongside our singing. The children are enjoying using our little stage in the garden.

We will be providing the children with plenty of opportunities for developing skills with technology both inside and outside the classroom, with the children developing use of handheld technology such as iPads, programmable equipment and role play resources. We are eager to use the iPads and recording devices to enhance our role play and topic work.

The children will have two PE sessions each week. One session will be with our sports coach, Keely and the other with me. This term we will have a focus on group games and large ball skills. They don't need a PE kit but it is always a good idea to make sure your child is wearing comfy shoes to school.

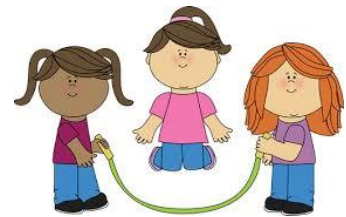
House Keeping

- Please make sure your child's clothing is named, especially jumpers. This makes it much easier to get clothing back to the right person! I always have a supply of some permanent markers if you ever need to borrow one.
- Please let me know if someone different is collecting your child.
- At the end of the day, we try and tidy our garden for the next day. Please do not play out there at the end of the day.
- Spare clothes kept on pegs is very helpful in case your child has an accident or gets mucky.

- We go outside in all weather. Please make sure your child is dressed for the elements. If they come in wellies, bringing a pair of shoes as well is helpful as they sometimes start to get sore feet.
- Please keep toys at home. It's not much fun if they go missing and there are lots of lovely things to play with at school. I am happy for the children to bring books in from home to share. We have a box they can put them in and I read them to the class.
- I am looking for Class Reps to help organise our Class Teas and other school events. If you are interested, please let me know – it is a great way to get to know the school and other parents.

Important Dates

- Teddy Bears Picnic (At school) Children can bring in their favourite teddy/soft toy from home. We will bake a few bits and pieces to eat the day before.
- Stay and Play – Open morning where your child can show you what they have been enjoying so far. Thursday 26th September, 9.00-9.50.
- Picnic on Golders Hill and the Butterfly House – Tuesday 8th October, 10.00-2.00. Packed lunch required.
- Individual Parent Meetings – Tuesday 15th and Thursday 17th of October. Please note this is earlier than the rest of the school.
- Nature walk/games on the Heath – Friday 8th November, 9.00-12.00.
- Maths Morning – Pop in and the children can teach you some of their favourite maths games – Thursday 14th November – 9.00-9.45.
- Reception Class Tea – Thursday 21st November, set up from 3.15.
- *Far, Far Away* – A show by the Aurora Orchestra at Kings Place. 10.15-2.30. Packed lunch required.
- Infant Christmas Show – Friday 6th December, 10.00am.
- Nature activities on the Heath – Tuesday 10th December 9.00-12.00
- Infant Christmas party – Tuesday 17th December, set up from 1.30 if you are available to help.



Please let me know if there is anything you would like clarification with.

I am looking forward to supporting your child in what is sure to be an exciting and busy first term!

Best wishes,

Beth Cleine
Reception Class Teacher