

Early Years - Reception
Key Information

Staff

- **Teachers**

- Laura Murphy (Early Years Leader) *Mon - Wed*
laura.murphy@westnewcastleacademy.org (please note Laura's email address has now changed since last term and is no longer laura.b)

- Grace Brodie *Mon – Fri*
grace@westnewcastleacademy.org

We are also in the process of appointing some new teaching assistants to join our lovely team so keep a look out for some new faces soon!

Outdoor Learning

Now transition week is almost over, outdoor learning will take place for Reception every **Monday and Friday**.

Mondays will usually be an offsite visit on our mini bus! This half term we plan to visit-

- Gibside (Wed 14th Sep, Fri 16th Sep and Monday 26th Sep)
- Tynemouth beach (Monday 3rd October)
- Jesmond Dene (Monday 10th October and Monday 17th October)

Fridays will be outdoor learning using our fantastic onsite Nature Park.

School will provide waterproof trousers and jackets for all children. We ask that you provide a pair of wellies labelled with your child's name that can stay at school. We also ask that children are dressed appropriately for the weather (e.g. warm coats/ hats / gloves when it gets cold.)

Alongside the specified outdoor learning days, children will use our outdoor spaces regularly and may visit the on-site nature park throughout the week as part of our early years curriculum.

Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 28th September 9 – 9:45am. Early Years Parents Coffee morning. After dropping your child at school, we invite you to pop along to the main school for a cuppa and a biscuit where you can chat to other parents and carers and find out a little more about our school community. We'd love to see you there!

Tuesday 4th October 3:30 – 4pm. Parents and carers phonics taster session. Join us in the Reception classroom if you'd like to find out a little more about how we teach our Read, Write, Inc. Phonics scheme and learn how you can best support your child at home.

What to bring to school

We ask that children have their own book bag. If you don't have one yet, please visit the office in main school where you can get one. Reading books will soon be sent home each week. We ask that you spend sometime reading with your child as often as you can and bring the reading book and book bag to school everyday. We will change books weekly and we will also hear children read in school regularly. We will soon be sharing information about our new exciting app which will help us log reading at school and home.

We also ask that your child bring in their own water bottle every day. Please don't bring in sweets or toys from home.

Seesaw

We like to document some of the exciting learning taking place in school using Seesaw. This is an app you can download on your phone where we can share photos and comments about your child's learning with you. More information will be sent to you about this soon alongside your child's log in details.

Free School Meal Scheme

Don't forget to register for the governments free school meal scheme. If you qualify the school will receive extra funding to spend on resources and you will be entitled to things such as uniform allowance and free schools meals up to Year 6 (all children up to Y2 get school meals free already). Find out if you qualify - www.newcastle.gov.uk/services/schools-learning-and-childcare/help-school-and-learning-costs/apply-free-school-meals

If you have any questions, please feel free to speak to a member of staff who will be happy to help. We thank you for your continued support and we look forward to another fantastic year at West Newcastle Academy!

Please keep reading to find out more about what Reception will be learning this half term...

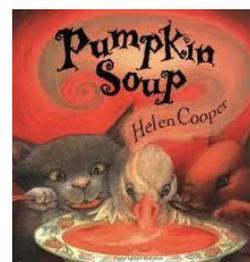
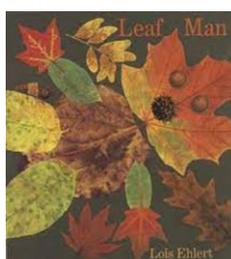
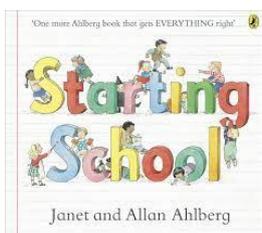
Reception Topic: Changes

The topic for reception this term is “Changes.” The children are all undertaking **the change of starting school** and we will be exploring what this means to them. What positive changes can we make this year? What new things will we learn?

We will also be exploring **seasonal changes** as we enter Autumn. How does the environment around us change as Autumn begins? What can we see, hear, smell, touch and taste?

We will then investigate **changing states** as we cook some delicious recipes using some of the apple, pears and blackberries we find in the Nature Park, as well as some seasonal recipes such as pumpkin soup.

Some of the books we will look at this half term:



The Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum is split into 7 areas of learning. Below are some of the things we will be working on in each area this half term-

Personal, Social & Emotional Development:

We are learning:

- To work and play cooperatively and to take turns with others
- To form positive relationships.
- To try new activities.
- To understand our feelings and emotions.

Communication & Language:

We are learning:

- To develop our listening skills.
- To use a wider range of vocabulary.
- To express our ideas.
- Simple rhymes and songs

Physical Development

We are learning:

- How to move in a range of ways.
- How to handle different materials, tools and equipment safely.
- To improve our gross motor skills through large body movements (such as climbing, jumping and ball skills).
- To develop our fine motor skills (which will help us learn to write).

Literacy

We are learning:

- To enjoy a range of books.

Parent/Carer Guide
Autumn 1: Reception



- To hear initial sounds in words.
- To read and write our letters.
- To recognise and write our own names.
- How to hold a pencil correctly.
- To give meaning to marks.

Mathematics

We are learning:

- To match and sort objects.
- To compare amounts.
- To compare size, mass and capacity.
- To explore patterns.

Understanding the World

We are learning:

- To explore the natural world.
- To understand the effects of the changing seasons.
- To discuss and explore similarities and differences.
- To care for living things and the environment.

Expressive Arts and Design

We are learning:

- To safely use and explore different materials, tools and techniques.
- To represent our ideas in creative ways.
- To sing songs and to use simple percussion instruments.
- To use specific tools and materials to create a desired effect.