

## Early Years - Reception Key Information

### Staff

- **Teachers**

- Laura Murphy (Early Years Leader) *Mon - Wed*  
[laura.murphy@westnewcastleacademy.org](mailto:laura.murphy@westnewcastleacademy.org)

- Grace Brodie *Mon – Fri*  
[grace@westnewcastleacademy.org](mailto:grace@westnewcastleacademy.org)

- **Support staff**

- Demi Usher Mon/ Wed-Fri (teaching assistant)

- Dlnya Mohammad Afternoons only (apprentice teaching assistant)

### Outdoor Learning

Outdoor learning days will continue to be on a Monday and Friday this term.

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

- China town Newcastle (16<sup>th</sup> January)
- Gibside (23<sup>rd</sup> January)
- The Discovery Museum (30<sup>th</sup> January)
- Newburn Park (6<sup>th</sup> February)
- The Hancock Museum (13<sup>th</sup> February)

Some of our trips can sometimes change due to circumstances out of our hands, eg the weather. If there are any changes, we will let you know through seesaw.

**Fridays** will be outdoor learning using our fantastic onsite Nature Park. Our outdoor learning topic this half term is shelter building.

If you haven't already, please bring in a pair of labelled wellies that can be kept in school for children to wear on outdoor learning days.

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, so please make children are dressed appropriately for the weather (e.g. warm coats/ hats / gloves when it gets cold.)

### Dates for your Diary

- **Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February 8:45-9:30:** Stay and play session with parents and carers.

### Seesaw

We often use seesaw to post messages and updates so please do keep an eye out. We also love sharing what the children are getting up to at school. Parents and carers are welcome to share photos of anything the children have been getting up to at home. This could be anything from a piece of writing, to something they have made or even a trip out somewhere. We love seeing the children's super work and learning at home.

If you are having any trouble with seesaw or need a new QR code please let us know as we are always happy to help.

### **Other messages**

- Our school nursery is now up and running and we have lots of spaces available for children ages 3-4! If you would like more information on this, please speak to Laura or a member of staff from the office.
- We ask that all children bring a water bottle to school every day.
- Reading books are changed every week (usually on a Thursday). Please log any reading at home on Boom Reader or in reading records.
- This term we are very lucky to have some trainee teachers from Northumbria University, so please keep an eye out for new faces.

**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 term!**

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

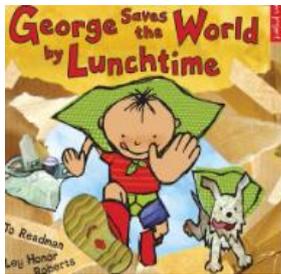
### **Reception Topic: *Our World***

The topic for Reception this term is "*Our World*". The children will be looking at lots of different areas within this topic including: Chinese New Year, animals and people in our world and how we look after our planet.

The children's learning will begin with a new focus text every week that covers an area within "Our World" topic. For example, one week we will be learning about how we recycle, reduce and reuse. To start off our learning, we will look at the story "Michael Recycle and Litter Bug Doug" and carry out fun activities like litter picking in our local area and creating art from rubbish. We want the children to feel inspired and motivated to help look after our planet and everything on it. The children have already shown lots of interest in how we look after our

local area and always let us know how sad it is when they see litter on the floor! We are very excited to start another super term and hope that the children are too.

Some more texts we will look at:



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 continue to work and play cooperatively and to take turns with others
- Think about the perspectives of others
- To try new activities.
- To understand our feelings and emotions and those of others.

### **Communication & Language:**

**We are learning:**

- Listen and talk about stories to build familiarity and understanding
- To offer explanations for why things might happen
- To use a wider range of vocabulary.
- To express our ideas in full sentences including use of past, present and future tenses and making use of conjunctions

### **Physical Development**

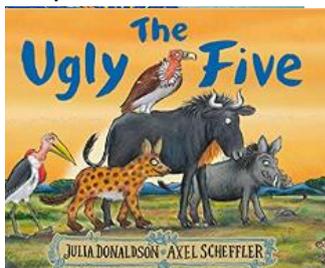
**We are learning:**

- How to move in a range of ways.
- Continue to develop the skills we need to manage the school day (eg, lining up and lunchtimes)
- 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). This term we will be beginning to use the hall for PE (children will wear normal uniform for this)
- To develop our fine motor skills (which will help us learn to write).

### **Literacy**

**We are learning:**

- To blend sounds to read simple words. Some of us will begin to read simple story books.
- Spell words by identifying the sounds in them. Some of us will begin to write simple phrases and sentences this term



- Re-read books to build up our understanding and enjoyment of the story

### **Mathematics**

**We are learning:**

- To recognise and explore 0
- To compare numbers and amounts to 5

- To explore different ways to compose 4 and 5
- To compare mass and capacity

### **Understanding the World**

#### **We are learning:**

- To talk about the lives of people around us
- To compare and contrast characters from stories
- To recognise that people have different beliefs and celebrate special times in different ways
- To understand the effects of the changing seasons.
- To discuss and explore similarities and differences between life in this country and others around the world.
- To care for living things and the environment.

### **Expressive Arts and Design**

#### **We are learning:**

- Develop our own ideas then decide which materials we need to use to express them
- Draw with increasing detail
- Remember and sing entire songs
- To sing songs and to use simple percussion instruments.
- To use specific tools and materials to create a desired effect.

We look forward to another fantastic term and thank you all for all of your support. Staff are always happy to help if anyone has any questions or concerns please speak to a member of staff.