



Welcome to Robins Class

Reception, Year 1 and 2

Class Information

September 2023



Welcome to Robins Class! We are very lucky to have wonderful Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children in our class. Classteacher is Miss Reid, assisted daily by Mrs Sedgbeer. Everyone in Robins, both adults and children, aim to work together and live up to the following agreements:

- We will be kind, caring and we will help each other.
- We will be good listeners.
- We will respect our school and the things in it.
- We will try our best but if something goes wrong we will try and try again.
- We will be in the right place at the right time.
- Have fun!

Curriculum

Children in the Reception year follow the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum and children in Year 1 and 2 follow the Year 1 and 2 National Curriculum. This means that, although we will come together as a whole class at various points of the day, the children will be taught separately for many subjects, especially in English and Maths. Miss Reid and Mrs Sedgbeer are well practiced in structuring the day to ensure that all children get the teaching time they need as well as the independent practice that allows their learning to develop. We learn through direct teaching, child-led and adult-led activities, all wrapped up in lots of play and fun in a supportive environment.

Phonics and Reading



Reception and Year 1 children have daily 20-minute Phonics lessons and lots of opportunity to practice what they have learned during focussed activities and during independent play.

Guided Reading with an adult takes place once a week for all children in Robins.

Year 1 and 2 children will also have the opportunity to read independently for 20 minutes every day in school. Year 2 children will also work on

comprehension quizzes using our Accelerated Reader programme.

Story time is a very important time of our day and we will come together to foster a love of stories and reading for pleasure.

Please see the homework section below for ways you can help at home with this.

Writing, handwriting, spelling, punctuation and grammar.

Reception children concentrate on letter formation and segmenting words into phonic sounds for a large part of the year. Later on in the Reception year we start to write sentences and sequences of sentences.

Year 1 and 2 children will explore a wide range of text types to link their writing to during the year and their reading and writing skills will be developed and extended through studying these texts in depth. The children will be expected to write independently, editing and improving their writing as part of the process.

Year 2 children will also have a daily 20-minute Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar lesson every day, focussing on important tools to improve their writing.

Handwriting sessions take place several times a week for all year groups, starting at basic letter formation in Reception to joining in Year 2.

Maths

In Maths, we use the White Rose Scheme as a basis for planning and the children will develop their skills through a mixture of direct teaching, including formal written lessons, investigations, practical activities and games.

Reception children are taught separately to Year 1 and 2 children but even within these groups, children are supported in their own Maths journey and will receive the help they need to become secure in place value, calculations, shape, space and measure including time, and additionally for Year 2, basic fractions. In Year 2, children are introduced to the multiplication tables. They practise to become fluent in the 2, 5 and 10 multiplication tables and connect them to each other. Year 1 and 2 children will begin to record their Maths learning in Maths exercise books. As Reception children will do most of their Maths learning through practical activities these will be recorded through observations on Tapestry. Please see the homework section below for ways you can help at home with your children's Maths learning.

Understanding the World and Topics

This year Robins Class will be diving into a number of exciting topics within the subjects of History, Geography, Science, Art, Computing, Religion and World Views, Music and Design Technology. These will include:

animals, toys, senses, weather, plants, significant historical figures such as Mary Seacole and Florence Nightingale, explorers, continents and oceans. Our topic learning will be immersive and will build on



P.E. & Forest School

PE will be held on Thursday with Mr Tanner and our other session will be held on a Monday. Children need to wear navy shorts and a pale blue polo shirt or tracksuit bottoms and tops in colder weather. They also need to wear trainers. **PE kits should be worn to school on the days that PE is timetabled.** All kit should be clearly named please.

Forest School for Robins this term is on a Thursday afternoon with Miss Reid. Please could the children bring a change of clothes, wellies and waterproofs to school in a separate bag. If the weather is wet a spare bag for wet or muddy clothing is really useful.

Homework

- **Read, read, read and read some more!**

Without a doubt, learning to read is the most important step in a child's academic journey and, along with their emotional well-being, it has top priority in Robins Class.

Reception children will bring home a wordless book for the first few weeks of the Autumn Term. Please have a look at this with your child and help them to work out the story from the pictures. Ask them lots of questions about what is happening and guide them in knowing the conventions of turning the pages the right way from front to back. They will also bring home a story book for you to read to them. The love of stories is so important in learning to read so this is an opportunity to just enjoy the books together. We will start daily Phonics sessions in Week 3 of the Autumn Term. Once we start these your child will bring home a book with decodable words in that they should be able to sound out independently. The more letters and sounds they learn in Phonics the more complex the reading will become. Pupils will have their books changed to take home on a Friday and will keep them for a whole week. Reading and re-reading the same book for a week is an excellent way to embed their phonics learning and develop fluency.

Year 1 children will bring home books from Phase 5 Phonics, linking to the letters and sounds they have been learning that week. They should be able to read these independently. Pupils will have their books changed to take home on a Friday and will keep them for a whole week. Reading and re-reading the same book for a week is an excellent way to embed their phonics learning and develop fluency. Children will have a yellow Home-School Diary in which to record the reading they do at home.

Year 2 children bring home books that are within their Accelerated Reader book level (this is recorded on the inside cover of their yellow Home School diaries). These should be read at home and at school (more than once is advised if they are short books) and then they take a comprehension quiz to test their understanding of what they have read. Accelerated Reader will tell us the results of the Quiz. At the beginning and end of each term we do a Star Reading Test which gives us the Book Level the child should be reading at. Please encourage your child to read at home every day and record what they read in their Home-School diary.



Online Homework:

During the first half term, I will be showing the children how to use the following online resources in class, and I will send them home with their personal logins usually around Autumn half term so that they can have a go at home for the rest of the year.

English Homework in addition to reading:

- Phonics Bug: **(YEAR 1)** - Good for practicing phonics for reading and spelling. It has a variety of books that the children can read online or can have read aloud by the computer as well as games.
- Spelling Frame **(YEAR 2)** - A spelling resource which focuses on learning spelling rules and patterns. It allows children to look at example words for a spelling rule and play games to learn the rules. Please note: We no longer do weekly spelling tests as research shows that learning spelling rules is a much better use of all our time than learning words in isolation that are swiftly forgotten when the writing books appear!

Maths Homework:

- Numbots **(YEAR 1)** – Great for practicing counting and addition and subtraction.
- Times Tables Rock Stars **(YEAR 2)** - great for times tables practice and particularly good for rapid recall.

As parents ourselves, we are well aware how hard it can be to fit homework into busy lives amongst other the needs of siblings, mealtimes, bedtimes, out of school activities, and just having time to relax with your children after a busy day at work and school! If it is becoming a battle or if fitting it in seems impossible talk to Miss Reid at the next parents' evening, or before. We can come up with a plan that fits what time you have.

Collective Worship

We hold Collective Worship every day and use this time to explore our school values. On Friday, we have an assembly to celebrate achievements and children are welcome to bring in awards they have gained outside school to share with everyone. Please also email the office and let us know if your child has demonstrated the current school value at home and we will celebrate this too.

General Information

If you would like to contact me for any reason, please use the school admin email and I will get back to you as soon as possible. We will also be available for messages and general enquiries at the end of the school day.

There are two formal parents' evenings during the year. The first ones will be held on Tuesday 17th and Thursday 19th October 2023.

Please ensure sure your child comes to school with appropriate clothing for the weather, particularly on days of adverse weather. Children will play outside at break and lunch times as much as the weather allows, so a coat will be required if it is wet.

Please ensure your child is fully equipped for their school day. This will include book bag and reading record in school every day. Please can you also send in a water bottle each day for your child to have access to during lessons. These should be taken home at the end of each day and fresh water sent in. Frequent access to water improves concentration and encourages good health. I also ask that if snacks are sent in, that these are healthy and nut-free. No crisps, chocolate or cakes please. There is also fruit provided if your child would like a piece at snack time.

A link to our weekly newsletters is sent home by email and this contains important, up to date information and upcoming dates and events as well as photos and a short description of what the children have been learning that week.

If you need to contact a teacher directly, please email the admin address admindiptford@thelink.academy and your message will be forwarded to the relevant teacher.

Thank you so much for all your support. I am very much looking forward to a great year with Reception, Year 1 and Year 2.

Ali Reid

