



## Reception Class Newsletter

September 2023

Welcome to The Croft Primary School, to the Reception class and to the start of your child's school life with us. Over the next few weeks the Reception children will be settling into the class routines and we are looking forward to them being in school full time. We will be carrying out the statutory government baseline assessment alongside our own assessments of the children and we will feedback this information to you at parent's evenings. You will receive details of these later this half term.

It is important that we work together with you, to support your child's journey through learning and this newsletter gives you an idea of the areas that we are covering this term, so that you can continue to support your child at home. Our first half term has a focus on Personal, Social and Emotional Development and well-being. We will be helping the children to settle into school, learn their new routines, make friends, develop good hygiene practice and work on developing their confidence and relationships in their new class. We will be encouraging the children to share and take turns, listen carefully to both adults and their friends, make good choices and develop their independence. You can support your child at home by encouraging them to put on and fasten their own coat, use the toilet independently, tidy up their toys and listen carefully to instructions.

### **Topic**

Our topic this half term is 'I Am So Special'. We shall be exploring who we are, our families, friends, favourite things, homes, birthdays, and feelings. Through stories including 'Elmer' and 'The Rainbow Fish', we will explore and celebrate the things that we can do and the things that make us special. We will also be looking at superheroes, what makes them special and how we can be 'superhero learners.' We will also be having a Superhero Day. The children will be able to come school dressed as a superhero and they will take part in a fully immersive workshop where they will meet some superheroes and find out whether superheroes exist in real life. More information about Superhero Day will follow shortly. Through a range of resources, activities and classroom/outside areas the children will have the opportunity to develop their imagination and language skills,

### **Mathematical Development**

This term we will be focusing on numbers to 5 and the key principles of counting to ensure that the children have a secure understanding of each number. We will be using the 'Numberblocks' programme to support the children in their understanding of counting accurately, ordering numbers, recognising numerals, comparing numbers and making numbers using addition.

We will be enjoying lots of fun activities to help develop the children's mathematical skills, including number stories and rhymes, counting fingers, looking at daily routines, measuring our height and comparing it with our classmates.

There will be an opportunity for you to learn more about how we teach maths through a workshop, which will be held later this term and we will be sending home simple maths activities for you to do with your child over this first term.

### **Communication, Language and Literacy**

Over the first few weeks, we will be introducing the children to Animaphonics (our school phonics scheme); developing the children's awareness and recognition of the sounds that letters make. These early steps in developing their reading and writing are really important, so there will be an opportunity for you to learn more about how we teach phonics and how you can support your child at home, later this term.

### **Reading Books**

Your child will be given a book from our reading scheme in the next few weeks. Some of these early reading books are picture books for you to share with your child. Please read the stories to your child, encouraging them to predict what might happen next, how the characters feel and retell the story themselves. Their reading book will be accompanied by a reading record book for you to write comments in, each time you read with your child, about how they have got on with their reading at home. We will ask you to send their book bags in once each week on a specific day, so that we can change their books, hear them read their words and books individually, but the children will be developing and rehearsing their reading skills in the daily phonics and literacy lessons too.

### **P.E**

The Reception class will be taking part in P.E sessions every Wednesday. The children will need to come to school in their P.E kit and remain in them for those days. P.E kit is white t-shirt, black/navy jogging bottoms/leggings or shorts, trainers/pumps and their school jumper/cardigan. For safety reasons, if your child wears earrings, please remove them on P.E days. Please ensure that all your child's kit and school uniform is clearly named, so that we are able to identify and return any lost items.

### **Snack**

The Reception children have a snack every morning and afternoon. There is a slice of toast each morning and a piece of fruit each afternoon. We ask parents for a contribution towards toast and this can be paid for on ParentPay. If your child does not want or like toast they can bring a healthy snack.

### **Water bottles**

Each child has been given a named water bottle and we ask you to send your child with a water bottle every day. It is very important that the children have the opportunity to drink water throughout the day as this benefits their development and learning. We ask for water and not juice/squash in their bottles as water is the healthy option and then we don't have any sticky spillages.

### **Bags**

The children don't need to bring bags to school each day, but if you would like to send in spare pants and socks for your child, in case of accidents, then please send them in a small named bag that can hang on their peg or go in their tray.

### **Outdoor Clothing**

Also, as we intend to use the outdoor area as much as we can (whatever the weather) please could you send your child to school with a named pair of wellies and a pair of named jogging bottoms (navy blue or black) that could stay in school so they are available if they need them. They will also need to bring a coat to school everyday so that we can facilitate this. I am sure that you will agree with me how important it is for the children to be able to get outside in the fresh air.

### **Home/School Links**

We value our links with parents and as some of you may not always be around at the beginning or end of the day, if you need to contact me, my email address is:

[staff31@croft.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:staff31@croft.staffs.sch.uk)

Thank you for your continued support

Mrs. Astley and Mrs Davis

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