

A big hello from the Reception team!

Mrs Jowitt Mrs McMullan Mrs Swann Miss Herron



Welcome to Reception at Great Totham. We are very excited to start the school year!

This term's theme is 'Rhyme Time'. We will use a range of popular texts by Julia Donaldson including; 'What the Ladybird Heard', 'Jack and the Flumflum Tree', 'Superworm', 'Stickman', 'Zog' and 'The Gruffalo'. Please feel free to encourage engagement in the topic by reading any Julia Donaldson books you may have at home or sharing other books with rhymes.



Literacy

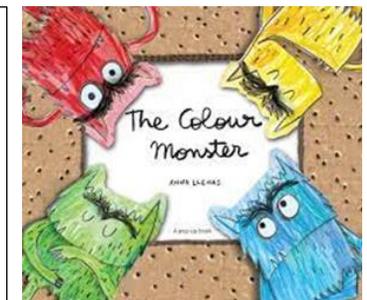
The phonics programme we follow is Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised. The programme teaches early reading and spelling, with the children being introduced to 4 new sounds each week.

There will be opportunities to mark make, such as drawing pictures, stencilling and painting. We will focus on identifying initial sounds in words and encourage children to record these. We will also engage in a variety of rhyming activities, such as finding pictures of rhyming words hidden in the sand tray.

During the course of the day, exciting opportunities are provided in the Reception classes that cover all seven areas of learning within the Early Years Curriculum. These include both child initiated play and adult led activities. For example, to develop '**Communication and Language**' skills, children will be encouraged to take part in circle time discussions such as 'what makes a good friend?' They will have the opportunity to develop their speaking skills whilst playing in one of our exciting role play areas, which include a house, a café and perhaps most excitingly a potion shop!

In '**Mathematics**' children will be practising counting, ordering and recognising numbers up to 10. For example, 'The ladybird has lost all of its spots. Can you match the numeral to the right amount of spots?'

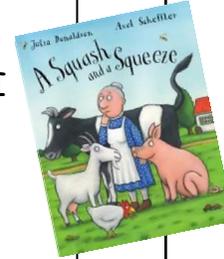
Within '**Personal, Social and Emotional Development**' we will begin to teach the children to name and identify different emotions and feelings using the book 'The Colour Monster' by Anna Llenas. As part of their '**Physical Development**' children will have opportunities to develop their gross motor skills during our P.E lessons, through using the outdoor adventure trail and riding bikes and trikes etc.





Ways you can support your child at home

- Your child can develop strength in finger muscles through a range of activities, such as: play dough e.g. roll, twist, squeeze, making a pasta necklace or scrunching up paper to make a picture.
- Play 'I Spy' to help your child hear and identify initial sounds. E.g. 'I spy something beginning with the letter sound 's'.
- Talk about what rhyming means and ask your child to continue a rhyming string. E.g. dog, frog, log.
- Please regularly share a range of books from your collections at home and visit your local library if you can.
- Give your child lots of opportunities to count objects (coins, pasta, shapes, buttons etc). Ensure your child touches each object whilst saying the correct number.
- Ask your child to practise putting on their coat. Can they correct it if it is inside out? Can they zip it up?
- To support with PE sessions at school, please practise and encourage your child to independently put their socks and shoes on.



- **All** items of clothing need to be clearly labelled with your child's name.
- Your child needs to bring a named water bottle into school each day. Please see the picture below for an example of what style of bottle would be most suitable.
- Send your child's reading folder into school every Monday. This should contain their blue sharing record and the two books they chose the previous week.



Dates for your diary

12th October - Individual photos

18th and 19th October - Parents Evening

8th December pm - Year R Christmas event



Our first PE day in Reception is Tuesday 13th September.

Please send your child to school in full PE kit every **Tuesday and Thursday** from this date. The uniform policy is available on the website.

Tapestry

Don't forget to log in to your child's Tapestry account. Please look out for exciting uploads of your child's learning at school. We also look forward to seeing your uploads from home.

Parent communication

- Communication can be through mutually agreed appointment or by catching a member of the team for a quick word on the door. Unfortunately we are unable to see parents before school unless it is an emergency.
- Please also regularly check ParentMail, Tapestry and the school website for updates or important information.