

A big hello from the Reception team!

Mrs McMullan Mrs Craig Mrs Carter Mrs Jowitt



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

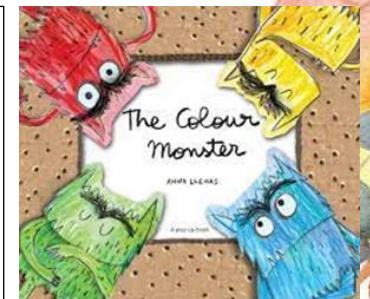


The phonics programme we follow is Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised. The programme teaches early reading and spelling, with the children being introduced to 4 new sounds each week. We will focus on identifying initial sounds in words and encourage children to record these. We will also engage in a variety of rhyming activities, such as finding pictures of rhyming words hidden in the sand tray. There will be opportunities to mark make, for example by drawing pictures, stencilling and painting.

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 'How can we be kind to our friends?' 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!

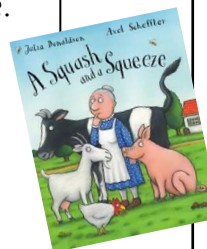
In '**Mathematics**' pupils will build on previous experiences of number from their home and nursery environments, and further develop their subitising and counting skills. They will explore the composition of numbers within 5. They will begin to compare sets of objects and use the language of comparison.

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 playing with 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. 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.



Useful Information

- **All** items of clothing need to be clearly labelled with your child's name.
- 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.
- The overall cost for swimming lessons and other exciting learning opportunities in school will be approximately £45 over the year. This is only a rough guideline but we hope this information helps your planning.

Dates for your diary

23rd and 24th October - Parents Evenings

5th November – Flu Immunisation Day

5th December pm - Year R Christmas event



Our first PE day in Reception is Thursday 12th September.

Please send your child to school in full PE kit every **Thursday** and **Friday** 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 a 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.