

# A big hello from the Reception team!

Mrs Jowitt Mrs McMullan Mrs Swann Miss Herron Mrs Watson



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.

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 '**Literacy**' children will be introduced to letter sounds through the Jolly Phonics scheme. They will focus on identifying initial sounds in words and will also engage in a variety of rhyming activities, such as finding pictures of rhyming words hidden in the sand tray. As part of '**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?'

As part of '**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 through bikes and trikes etc.

## 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.



## 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. We are always happy to make recommendations.
- 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?



- **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.

### Parent communication

- You can contact us via your child's Tapestry account. We will then get back to you as soon as possible.
- Communication can also 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 and the school website for updates or important information.



### Our first PE day in Reception is Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> September.

Please send your child to school in full PE kit every **Tuesday** and **Thursday** from this date.



### Library

Your child will have the opportunity to choose a library book to take home on a **Monday**. Please then return this book the following Monday so that they can choose a new book.