



September 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

The Foundation Stage Team extends a very warm welcome to you and your child as they start school. We are very much looking forward to working in partnership with you. This letter is for your information, outlining the learning taking place in Reception class this half term as well as some important information. Our priority for the first half term is to help the children to settle quickly into 'big school' make friends, and feel safe and secure at Trent. Our overarching theme this half term is **'Who am I?'** We hope this will help us and the children get to know each other as they explore and learn. At Trent, we recognise that your child's success is often attributed to tremendous commitment from their whole family team; so thank you in advance for your support.

Throughout the first half of the autumn term, we will be covering the following:

Subject	Learning taking place at school	Links to previous learning to use as discussion points at home	Additional ideas to support your child at home
Personal, Social and Emotional Development	Activities designed to help the children settle into school and begin to make friends e.g. small world play scenarios Learning how to use our resources and toys and how to tidy up afterwards! Learning to take turns and share with others Explaining class rules, routines as expectations	Nursery routines Play & stay visit to our Reception class 1:1 meetings just before your child starts school	Talk about starting school in a positive light Encourage independence by letting your child do small tasks for themselves e.g. carrying their book bag Encourage sharing and fair play e.g. 'my turn, your turn' Stick to routines at home e.g. bedtime. Your child will be very tired during those first weeks of school

Physical Development	<p>How to manage personal hygiene and look after their own belongings</p> <p>Exploring indoor and outdoor equipment and safety around them</p> <p>Managing school lunches independently and good hygiene around this</p> <p>Pre-writing warm ups e.g. finger & hand strengthening activities</p>	<p>Nursery equipment</p> <p>Putting on their coat</p> <p>Managing wellies</p>	<p>Teach your child how to clean themselves after using the toilet as they need to be able to do this independently at school</p> <p>Practice getting dressed for school, managing coats & other outdoor clothing</p> <p>See link 1 below to useful information about support with learning to dress</p>
Communication & language	<p>How to listen well and follow simple instructions</p> <p>Join in with repeated refrains and anticipate events in poems & rhymes</p> <p>Talking about things that are important to them</p> <p>Answering simple questions</p>	<p>Familiar nursery rhymes, stories and songs</p>	<p>Play games involving listening for a signal e.g. 'Simon says' & moving around obstacles</p> <p>Encourage your child to join in as you read familiar stories e.g. 'Run, run as fast as you can you can't catch me...I'm the Gingerbread Man!</p> <p>See link 2 below to useful parent booklet 'What to expect when'</p>
Literacy	<p>Learning about the 5 key principles of print</p> <p>Recognising their own name</p> <p>Tuning in to rhyme and alliteration</p> <p>Begin to use and understand recently introduced vocabulary</p> <p>Focus books about starting school</p> <p>Commencement of Phase1 of our chosen phonics programme</p>	<p>Phonics lessons at nursery</p> <p>Finding their name in the cloakroom</p>	<p>Point out print in the environment</p> <p>Visit the local library</p> <p>Read books about starting school</p> <p>Sing nursery rhymes together and listen out for rhyming words</p> <p>Reading together the books your child self – selects from our class library</p>
Mathematics	<p>Matching & sorting counting and 1:1 correspondence</p>	<p>Counting objects in a row</p>	<p>Sing counting songs</p> <p>Encourage careful counting by touching each object as they go</p> <p>Count everything!</p>

	Counting abstract things e.g. jumps, claps	Number songs	Look out for numbers in the environment See link 4 below to counting songs
Understanding the world: History (H) Geography (G) Science (S)	(H) When are our birthdays? Stories about birthdays Our own life history Inspirational person this half term: Wilma Rudolph (G) Who lives with me in my home? [Comparing where we live to families around the world] (S) ‘What is happening in autumn?’	People who help us Nature walks Families	We welcome donations of autumnal items for the children to share and investigate e.g. conkers, pine cones & leaves Observe seasonal changes when out and about <u>Please send in the following for your child as part of our Geography investigations:</u> A photo of an aspect of your home e.g. a room, front door or their own drawing of it
Religious Education (R.E.)	LDBS UNIT – ‘Who made this wonderful world and why?’	Festivals Attending your place of worship	Read bible stories about creation <u>Please send in the following items for your child as part of our RE work</u> A photo (or photocopy) of your child as a baby Something that is ‘precious’ to your child See explanation under R.E. below
Expressive arts & design	Learning new songs Instrument play Role play around our focus books Using scissors & different mark making tools	Painting Nursery songs	Encourage your child to sing the new songs they are learning at school Encourage safe use of child size scissors Observe autumn colours when out and about

Other information

P.E.

The children will have PE with our specialist coaches on **Mondays** and **Fridays** once they are fully settled into school. We aim for lessons to be outdoors as often as possible. On PE days your child should come into school dressed in their PE kit and trainers. Velcro fastening trainers are much safer than laces and trainers. Plimsolls and PE bags are not required. **PE lesson for Reception will commence on Friday 16th September 2022 and every Monday and Friday thereafter.**

Fruit/vegetables, milk and water

Reception children receive one piece of fruit or veg as part of the Government fruit scheme. **You may wish to provide your child with an additional healthy snack - fruit, veg or plain crackers/breadsticks for them to eat during break times.** Please place their snack in a small lidded pot, clearly labelled with their name. We are a nut free school so NO NUTS or products containing nuts are to be sent into school. Up until their 5th birthday, children in Reception class can also have a carton of milk each day as part of the Government milk scheme. In addition, please provide your child with a filled water bottle every day, clearly marked with their name. We discourage single use plastic bottles and fruit juice/squash is not allowed.

School Lunch

Children in years Reception to Year 2 are entitled to a free school lunch. We encourage you to contact Julie Ring in the office: office@trent.barnetmail.net if you believe your child may qualify for Pupil Premium (previously known as Free School Meals) as the school receives extra funding. If your child has any medical conditions, allergies or food intolerances, please contact Mrs. Martha Murray (our lead first aider) via the school office so that we can cater for their needs. Please note that our school catering suppliers ISS will require a form supported by medical evidence for any special dietary requirements as part of school lunch. Please speak to Mrs. Holmes (cook)

R.E.

We follow the London Diocesan Board of Education R.E. syllabus and our first unit is: ***'Who made this wonderful world and why?'*** As part of this learning please send in a photograph (can be a photocopy) of your child as a baby (please label with their name on the back) and an item that is 'precious' to your child. This could be a special toy (no soft toys please) book, shiny shell etc. If preferred, you may send in a photograph of your child's 'precious thing' (name on back please) We know that special teddies etc. can be hard to part with at school!

Reading

Please continue to read with your child at home. Each week your child will choose a book from our class library to enjoy reading at home with you. This is not a 'levelled' reading book, rather a book to read together. These books are self-selected by the children and should be returned on **Fridays** (via their book bag) so that they can choose another book. You will receive more information about how we teach reading at Trent in due course.

Children love to hear different people reading. You are warmly invited to come into school to read with the class – a good time is just before pick up, please speak to a member of the EYFS team if you can help with this.

Slipper time – each week the children get cosy with a book. **Please kindly send in a pair of slippers/fluffy socks (named)** These will be kept in school in their named shoe rack.

Homework

Reception children will not have homework until they are fully settled into school. Work will be set via our homework platform **Google Classroom**. You will receive more information about user names and passwords in due course. In the meantime, paper copies will be put in your child's book bag.

Birthdays

As a Barnet Gold Award healthy school we discourage sweets/chocolates for birthdays. If desired, you may wish instead to donate a book for our class library. The book will be inscribed with your child's name, read to the class and then put in our class library for the children to enjoy.

Behaviour Policy

The Positive Behaviour Policy will be clearly explained to all the children across the school. In Reception we will be encouraging and recognising positive behaviour by rewarding children who do well in a variety of ways.

Please see table below for useful links to learning referred to above:

1. Getting dressed: http://raisingchildren.net.au/articles/getting_dressed.html
2. 'What to expect when': http://www.foundationyears.org.uk/files/2015/03/4Children_ParentsGuide_2015_WEB.pdf
3. Counting songs: https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b03g64rd

We look forward to working with you during the terms ahead and we know it will be a brilliant year.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions, via the office is the quickest way to reach us as it's very busy at drop off. We will get back to you as soon as we can.

Best wishes,

Mrs. Margaret Breheny (class teacher) and Mrs. Martine Cagnetta (class teaching assistant)