



September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

The Early Years Team extends a warm welcome to you and your child as they start school! We are looking forward to working/ continuing to work in partnership with you. This letter is for your information, outlining the learning taking place in Reception this half term as well as some important information. This half term's priority is helping the children to settle into 'big school', make friends and feel safe and secure at Trent. Now that all the children are full time we will be introducing our new project. Our project this half term will be **'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.

You will receive a paper copy of this curriculum information letter as Google Classroom will be set up in due course - once this has been set up you will receive these on there.

**Things to remember (all named):**

- Wellington boots
- Fluffy socks/ slippers
- Spare clothes/ shoes
- Rain coat
- Family picture (home corner)

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   |
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| Personal, Social and Emotional Development | Play & stay – meet your teachers & classmates<br>Activities which help children settle into school and begin to make friends | Nursery routines   | Talk about starting school in a positive light<br>Encourage independence by letting your child do small tasks for themselves e.g. carrying their book bag<br>Encourage sharing and fair play e.g. 'my turn, your turn' |

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|                          | <p>Learning how to use resources and toys and how to tidy up after themselves!</p> <p>Learning to take turns and share with others</p> <p>Explaining class rules and routines so that they begin to understand expectations</p>                                     |   | <p>Stick to routines at home e.g. bedtime as your child will be very tired during those first weeks of school</p>  |
| Physical Development     | <p>How to manage personal hygiene and look after 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>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 &amp; other outdoor clothing</p> <p><b>See link 1 below to useful information about support with learning to dress</b></p>  |
| Communication & language | <p>How to listen and follow simple instructions</p> <p>Join in with repeated refrains and anticipate events in poems &amp; 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' &amp; 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><b>See link 2 below to useful parent booklet 'What to expect when'</b></p>   |
| Literacy                 | <p>Recognising environmental print and 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>Phonics: s a t p i n m d g o c k c k e u r h b f l</p> | <p>Phase 1 phonics</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><u>Slipper time:</u><br/> <u>Please bring in a pair of NAMED slippers/ fluffy socks for the children to wear when we get cosy with a book</u></p> <p><b>See link 3 below to Phase 1 phonics games</b></p> |
| Mathematics              | <p>Matching &amp; sorting</p> <p>Counting and 1:1 correspondence</p> <p>Subitising numbers to 5</p> <p>Counting abstract things e.g. jumps, claps</p>   | <p>Counting objects in a row</p> <p>Number songs</p>                          | <p>Sing counting songs</p> <p>Encourage careful counting by touching each object as they go</p> <p>Count everything!</p> <p><b>See link 4 below to counting songs</b></p>  |

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| Understanding the world:<br><br>History (H)<br>Geography (G)<br>Science (S) | Inspirational person this half term: <b>Wilma Rudolph</b><br><br>(H) <b>What is a memory?</b><br><br>(G) <b>Who lives with me in my home?</b><br><br>(S) <b>'What is happening to the trees?'</b> (autumn) | People who help us<br><br>Nature walks<br><br>Families | Bring in autumnal items for the children to share and investigate e.g. conkers, pine cones & leaves<br><br>Observe seasonal changes when out and about<br><br><u>Please send in the following for your child as part of our History &amp; Geography investigations:</u><br><ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A photo of an aspect of your home</li> <li>2. An item from the past for your child to talk about</li> </ol> See explanation below this table |
| Religious Education (R.E.)  | LDBS UNIT – <b>'Who cares for this wonderful world and why?'</b>   | Festivals  | Read bible stories about creation<br><br><u>Please send in the following items for your child as part of our RE work</u><br><ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A photo (or photocopy) of your child as a baby</li> <li>2. Something that is 'precious' to your child</li> </ol> See explanation under R.E. below   |
| Expressive arts & design  | Learn new songs with Mrs. Oden (music teacher)<br>Painting self portraits<br>Scissor skills<br>Role-play   | Painting<br>Nursery songs                              | Encourage your child to sing the new songs they are learning at school<br>Encourage safe use of child size scissors<br>Observe autumn colours when out and about  |

### Other information

#### P.E.

We will be starting PE in Autumn 2. The children will have PE with our specialist coaches on **Wednesdays** and **Fridays** once they are fully settled into school. We aim for lessons to be outdoors as often as possible and on their PE day for children come into school dressed in their PE kit and trainers. We will let you know more about P.E. arrangements nearer the time.

#### 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 **only** 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/ sesame free school so NO NUTS or products containing nuts are to be sent into school. Up until their 5<sup>th</sup> 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

All children are now entitled to a free school lunch. We encourage you to contact Julie Ring in the office: [office@trent.barnetmail.net](mailto:office@trent.barnetmail.net) if you believe your child may qualify for Pupil Premium (previously 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.

### R.E.

We follow the London Diocesan Board of Education R.E. syllabus and our first unit is: ***'Who cares for this special 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. Please send this in in named carrier bag.

### Understanding the World

#### Geography

We will be looking at different homes around the world and would be very grateful if you could send in a photo of **one** aspect of your home e.g. front door, room or feature e.g. fireplace.

#### History

We will also be exploring the concept of 'memories' with the children. It would be amazing if each child could please bring in an item or photo/photocopy of an item for discussion. This could be an old family photo of grandparents, an old teddy, something your child wore/used as a baby, an old or unusual object etc.

#### 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.

#### Homework

Reception children will not have homework until they are fully settled into school. Homework will be supporting the learning that has been happening that week within the classroom. Work will be set via our homework platform **Google Classroom**. You will receive more information about user names and passwords in due course.

## 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:

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| 1. Getting dressed: <a href="http://raisingchildren.net.au/articles/getting_dressed.html">http://raisingchildren.net.au/articles/getting_dressed.html</a>  |
| 2. 'What to expect when':<br><a href="http://www.foundationyears.org.uk/files/2015/03/4Children_ParentsGuide_2015_WEB.pdf">http://www.foundationyears.org.uk/files/2015/03/4Children_ParentsGuide_2015_WEB.pdf</a> |
| 3. Phase 1 phonics games: <a href="https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/resources/phase/1">https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/resources/phase/1</a>  |
| 4. Counting songs: <a href="https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b03g64rd">https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b03g64rd</a>   |

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.

Best wishes,

Miss Zoe Mouzouri (Class teacher), Miss Hayley Knapp (Teaching Assistant), Miss Ami Piccone (Student Teacher)