



BISHOPS ITCHINGTON  
PRIMARY SCHOOL

PART OF STOWE VALLEY MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

# Balmoral Class Newsletter

## Autumn Term 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

A big welcome to you and your child! We hope that this term will be exciting for everyone involved and that the children settle well into their new class at Bishops Itchington School. As this is your child's first half term in school, we will be using the time to get to know one another, so we can assess each child and carefully plan next steps of learning for them all. We will use our topics to create a safe, fun and stimulating learning environment that allows all children to access learning in all the seven areas of the Early Years Foundation Stage.

We have some key events to look forward to this term: 'Be Bold, Be Gold' pop-up café for our chosen charity at the end of September, Autumn Stay and Play sessions for parents on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October (Please book your session 09:30- 10:30 or 10:45-11:45)

### English – Reading & Phonics

This term our learning will be based on the exciting theme of Superheroes. We will be introducing the children to some amazing stories and songs, enabling them to develop a love of reading. Over the next few weeks, we will be looking at some favourite titles such as the Super Kid, Super Worm and Supertato. These children's favourites will help to capture their interest and encourage writing for a variety of purposes including lists, captions, information texts, letters and simple instructions. We shall be investigating the features of non-fiction texts and reading a wide range of material as a class to relate to our topics.

We will be following the Monster Phonics programme for Reception which focuses on phase two sounds. This will provide your child with the foundations that they will need to go on to read and write more confidently. As part of our learning based around these fantastic stories, there will be plenty of literacy opportunities where we encourage your child to look more closely at reading and writing simple words, as well as having a focus on recognising and writing their names beautifully. We will also be building a greater awareness of rhyme and alliteration and recognising initial sounds within words.

Reading books will be sent home each Monday. Please ensure your child's reading books are returned each Monday so they can be changed. The children will have picture books for the first few weeks and then reading books which will focus on the sounds learnt within their phonics lessons.

We will be listening to the children read regularly throughout the week.

### Maths

We will be following the 'White Rose' scheme to develop your child's mathematical development. This Autumn term phase is titled 'Just like me' and 'It's me 1, 2, 3'.

In maths we will have a big focus on encouraging your child to become a careful counter within their activities. They will be learning to recognise and correctly form each number. We will also be sorting objects into groups and comparing quantities, exploring patterns, and understanding positional language. Other learning opportunities will include looking at sizes relating to height and length.

## Personal, Social and Emotional Development

This term we will be sharing our news with one another about our own experiences. This will develop the children's ability to take account of what others say and build their self-confidence in speaking to others about their own needs, wants, interests and opinions.

As a class, we will explore how to talk effectively to others so that we can get along together. We will collaborate to build large outdoor projects and plan our ideas for the role play areas. We will plan our class rules and investigate why different rules are needed in different environments. Children will be encouraged to carry out tasks in order to develop their independence further. We will explore how our own actions can impact on other people, learn how to ask for help as well as help others, and share appropriately. Children will be provided with ample opportunities for making their own choices about their learning.

## Physical Development

We will be having our PE sessions on a Tuesday and Thursday. Please make sure your child comes into school in their PE kits on these days, wearing a school/ red jumper on PE days too.

In our weekly P.E sessions, we will become aware of the space, obstacles and others around us. We will be looking at how to store, use and set out equipment safely. We are going to be exploring different ways of moving whilst using the apparatus and equipment, looking at balancing and climbing skills.

Your child will play lots of instructional games and enjoy exploring different movement and music within our dancing time. During our weekly music sessions, the children will work as part of a team to create dances linked to different themes, exploring a broad range of multi-cultural stories and music.

We will be using our outside area to develop our ball skills and team sports.

Whilst practising small and large movements over the weeks ahead, we will notice what happens to our bodies when we exercise and learn about the importance of food, exercise, sleep and hygiene in order to stay healthy.

In class, we will be carrying out lots of fine motor activities such as threading and dough modelling, along with practising lots of cutting to develop our fine motor skills.

## Understanding of the World

We will take the opportunity to celebrate special occasions such as the beginning of Autumn and Harvest time. We will have our Forest School session every Monday afternoon so please ensure your child has their wellies and suitable clothing in school on this day. Your child will also be learning in our outside classroom every day so suitable clothing such as raincoats or sun hats are required to ensure your child's health and safety.

Within Forest School sessions, we will be exploring the seasonal changes. We will be investigating and learning about our natural surroundings, the weather, and working hard on looking after our site, including the vegetable patches.

## Expressive Art and Design

The children will have ample opportunities to engage in imaginative role-play within both the indoor and outdoor areas. Our role-play and small-world areas will include a home corner and a superhero set up. We will be using our imagination to develop characters, stories, and events. We have a wide range of creative resources, which the children will be encouraged to use independently. The Children will be learning about lines and shapes through portraits. We will be

exploring colours and how they can be changed to create new ones as well as developing our drawing and painting. We will be making junk models and many more exciting opportunities linked to our topic and own interests.

## Home learning

Home Learning will be set each week, linked to our topics, and learning experiences within the environments.

We will also be having a big focus on Mark-Making. We will be sending home activities to encourage early writing and develop your child's pencil grip. If you have any difficulty with home learning, please just let us know. Please can you upload evidence of the Home learning on to 'Seesaw' for your child to share with their friends on Monday mornings.

We will keep the website up to date on all the exciting learning going on within our class.

Please if you have any questions or worries, however big or small, do not hesitate to speak to us. You can contact me on Seesaw. We will always be on the playground for a quick chat once we have handed over all children. If you require a longer appointment, then please arrange a meeting before or after school time.

We do hope that your child enjoys their first term with us.

Mrs Ilsley, Miss Aston Mrs. Cherington, Mrs. Jones and Miss Ward