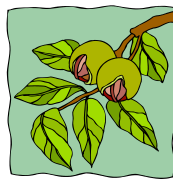
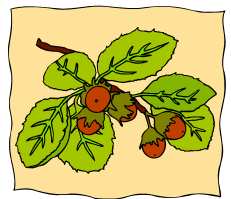


# Reception



# news



Autumn term 2016

## Welcome

We hope that both you and your child are settling into full time school life and that your child is enjoying the experience. This term we will continue to focus on getting to know the children, their ability and their interests. The children will help us to chose a topic over the next week and we will upload the planning overview to the website as soon as this is completed. Look out for the text that will let you know when its available.

This term is all about developing solid foundations to reading, writing and maths skills. We will be focusing on phonics and number awareness.

The children will be bringing home a Sound book every day, in which they will be expected to consolidate the phonic learning from that day and practice that days phoneme. We will also be sending home a maths challenge every fortnight which the children can participate in if they wish too.

After half term the children will also be involved in a weekly Book Smith Apprentice session. During this session they will begin to develop their reading skills which will include oral blending and segmenting of words, rhyming and understanding the features of books. We will send home a weekly blurb that explains our focus and gives ideas on how you can continue the learning at home. We value your comments and would encourage all parents to let us know how the activities went and how your children approached the learning challenges.

## School Library

Every Friday the children in Reception will have the opportunity to visit the main school library and borrow a book to bring home and share with you. The children have free choice in library and although we try to encourage them to choose picture books or those with smaller amounts of text, they often love to pick chapter books or Non fiction books which will require you to share them. It is a fantastic opportunity to encourage that love for reading and enjoyment in discovering different genres of books. Please ensure all Library books are returned the following Friday as the children will not be allowed a new book until the previous book has been returned. Many thanks.

## Our Guinea Pigs

As some of you are aware we have two lovely Guinea pigs in Reception called Raspberry and Pippin. The children love looking after them, chatting to them and helping to take care of them. The Guinea Pigs love to have fresh treats daily so please feel free to bring in fresh vegetables for them if you would like to. They love cucumber, cabbage, celery, peppers, greens and dandelion leaves, although they are not allowed lettuce as it makes them poorly. They also like to visit people over the holidays so if you would like to take them home for the half term or over Christmas please speak to a member of staff. They come packed with sawdust, hay and food in their suitcase!

## P.E. Sessions

Please remember that we will not be starting PE until after October half term. After this we will carry out PE on a Monday.

## Morning Procedures

Please could we remind parents that our doors open at 8.35 am and then the bell will ring at 8.45 am to signal us to lock the gates. If you are not in the EYFS playground before the bell rings then please bring your child to the office where they will be marked in and then escorted round to Reception by a member of the Admin team. Thank you for your cooperation in this.

## Dates to Remember

**Week Beg: 3rd October:** EYFS & Year One Pedal push sponsor event. More detail to follow soon!

**Week Beg: 10th October MATHS WEEK**  
**Tuesday 11th October**– Hazelnuts trip to Morden Library

**Wednesday 12th October**– REFLECT PRODUCTIONS workshop based on 'Nigel's Numberless World' for Nursery and Chestnut classes

**Thursday 13th October**- EYFS Maths Carousel of activities

**Friday 14th October**– Hazelnuts and Walnuts REFLECT PRODUCTIONS workshop based on 'Nigel's Numberless World'  
Chestnut Library Trip A.M.  
Walnuts Library Trip P.M.

**Week Beg: 17th October**  
Parent Evenings

**Week beg 24th October**– HALF TERM

**Week Beginning 31st October**  
EYFS DISCO more details to follow

**Week beginning 7th November**  
Individual photos



## Donations

Please could we ask all families to help in providing the following items

- A box of Tissues
- Any recycling materials such as boxes, yoghurt pots, cardboard tubes etc.
- Envelopes, catalogues and leaflets
- Material– any unwanted bed covers, sheets and curtains are all appreciated.

We also welcome donations of toys and books too! Many thanks in advance for your support with this.

## Friends of Hillcross

Every year we have lots of fundraising events taking place and the money from these goes directly back into the school to benefit your children. There is an ever growing group of parents and community members who organise and run these events and they are always looking for new members and supporters. The group meet once a term and there is no minimum commitment required, if you can help we welcome you! The Friends of Hillcross group help to run the termly Discos, Christmas fete, Summer Fair, Ice pole sales and regular cake sales. There are also behind the scene tasks such as running The Friends of Hillcross Twitter account, finding sponsors and donations from local businesses for our raffle prizes and many more that can be completed from home. If you could spare some time to join the group or are interested in helping and supporting the school with jobs and tasks please come and speak to Steph Mayar, who will take your details and let the group know. Not only do these fundraisers raise funds for the school they are also a great social event for families of the school to get to know each other. Please let us know if you are keen to get involved.

## School Website

Each week the Reception team upload a selection of photos and work samples to the website to showcase our learning for that week. Please log on to the website to take a look at what we have been doing. The website is also full of additional information for parents and children and will be the place to find all dates and information of events.

## School Lunches

We have had a very successful start to the term with dinners and the children all seem to be enjoying their lunch times. Please remember that all children in Reception are entitled to a free school meal and these are cooked on the premises by our lovely chef Ella.

For this term we are allowing the children to trial school dinners on a weekly basis and then swap back to packed lunches if they wish.

Please be aware this can only happen on a weekly basis and a decision must be made by half term as to whether your child will be school dinners or packed lunches from then until Christmas.

Please can we remind all parents and carers that we are a NUT FREE school. Please do not send in any products that contain nuts.

Many thanks

## Home Communication Books

Last week your child brought home a blue communication book. This book will be used for communications between home and school and will stay with your child for their entire Hillcross Journey until they leave in Year Six. Please use this book to ask any questions or pass on messages about changes such as who will collect your child. Please note that we do not look in these books daily so if you have written a note it is best to give the book to your child to hand to us first thing in the morning. This way we will know to read the communication and will be able to respond and/or take action. These books will also contain the home learning challenges and our Book Smith Apprentice blurbs. The children in Reception will NOT have a separate reading journal but we do encourage you to develop good reading habits straight away.

## Uniform

Please ensure that your child arrives at school in full school uniform everyday. We would also ask that you name all items of clothing, including coats, bags, lunch boxes and shoes. The children will place all belongings onto their peg within the EYFS area so please ask a member of the team if you are missing any items.

## Wellington Boots

As Autumn draws nearer the children will still be accessing the outside learning area. We request that all children have a pair of Wellington boots in school. If they have a pair that they can leave in school we can then access the field whatever the weather!

Thank you.