

Important Dates:

**18th September 2023** – Chorley Guardian to take class photograph

**11th October 2023** – Harvest Service at Trinigty Church (parents invited to attend)

**18th October 2023** – Autumn disco

**20th October 2023** – School closes for half term

**English**

Key Texts – throughout our English sessions, we will be looking at high quality texts to engage children with reading and promote a love of books. This half term we will be looking at *The Tiger Who Came to Tea, Rainbow Fish, The Scarecrow’s Wedding* and *Goldilocks and the Three Bears****.***

Name Writing – we will have a big focus on name writing this term. We understand that children will be at different stages with this skill. They may be looking at which letters are in their name, writing their first name from memory, writing their second name from memory or looking at letter formation within their name.

Early Writing – we will be encouraging children to segment (separate) and blend (put back together) sounds within 2 and 3 letter words. This is a huge skill that takes lots of practise and patience! Please don’t be alarmed if your child finds this difficult at first – practise makes perfect!

**Reading**

Once your child is ready, we will introduce them to a guided reading book. We will hold guided reading sessions within school, and we ask parents to read with their children at home too. We expect children to read at least 3 times weekly at home. We will be giving out class dojos to children who read 3 times or more at home within a week. The more children practise the skill of reading, the easier reading becomes for them.

A very warm welcome to Reception – we are excited to begin your child’s learning journey with us at Gillibrand and look forward to getting to know you and your children. Please remember to join up to Class Dojo so that we can communicate with each other quickly and easily. If you are unsure how to do this – please ask one of the team! Remember to look at our latest news on <https://gillibrand.lancs.sch.uk/> and follow us on twitter at @GPSOak for weekly updates of what we get up to in Reception Class.

**EYFS – Autumn Term 1**

**Phonics**

In Phonics, we will begin to look at individual sounds that letters in the alphabet make. We do not follow the order of the alphabet to do this. We will practise hearing and saying the initial sound in a word, before moving onto the final sound in words.

**Maths**

Children will be introduced to the concept of matching, sorting and comparing objects. We will also look at comparing size, mass and capacity and using mathematical language such as full, empty, long, short, heavy and light. We will also look at making simple patterns. We will be focusing on looking at the numbers 0-3 in depth – understanding that numbers can be represented in several ways – not just via numerals. We will also look at numbers 4-10, but in less depth at this stage. Children will be introduced to the concept of ‘tens frames’ and ‘Numicon’. We will use lots of songs and rhymes to help children with counting and number recognition.

**Communication and Language**

We will read a lot of stories this half term and will be looking for children to listen with increased attention to stories – as well as being able to recall parts of stories. We will also be looking for children to join in with repeated refrains and anticipate key events within a story.

We will expect children to listen and respond to the ideas of others throughout classroom discussions and begin to answer questions involving *who, what, where, when* and *why* questions.

**Expressive Art and Design**

Children will draw self-portraits this half term – looking carefully in the mirror to notice key facial features – such as eyebrows, freckles and eyelashes. We will encourage the children to select the correct colour when drawing their self-portraits.

We will also create pictures using natural resources linked to Autumn – e.g. leaves, twigs, conkers and pine cones. We will explore different natural textures and how we can use them within our pictures.

**Personal Social and Emotional Development**

Children will be taught about the routines and expectations within their new Reception classroom. We will introduce the concept of positive behaviours to support learning within school – such as eyes looking, ears listening, sitting still and having our lips closed on the carpet. We will also look at the expectations when moving around school and how we use other areas of the school appropriately – e.g. the dinner hall.

**Understanding the World**

This half term, our key focus is on getting to know your children. We will spend a lot of time talking about our families and who is important to us, as well as learning that not all families are the same and that it is okay for there to be differences in other people’s families.

We will also be looking at Autumn and the change in weather, as well as the changes in the trees around us. We will discuss shadows on the ground and what makes these. Within Computing, children will be introduced to the concept of taking photographs on the iPad and how to take a ‘good’ photo.

**Physical Development**

In PE lessons children will experiment with different ways of moving. They will learn how to use the space safely and how to dress for PE independently.

Children will develop their fine motor skills by using malleable materials and simple tools like scissors. They will develop mark making skills using a variety of different techniques.

In addition, they will be encouraged to communicate their needs to others whilst develop skills in self-care. Children will also learn about ways to keep safe and healthy at skills.