



# Welcome to Reception



A warm welcome to all of our Reception children, parents and carers. We are so proud of how well the children have settled in so far. Despite any first day nerves and a different transition process, the children have exceeded all expectations. A big well done to everyone!  
We are so excited to spend the year with you!



Last year, as Early Adopters, we trialled the new revised Early Years Curriculum. We are now following this new framework which became statutory on 1st September. In Reception, we will be focusing on the new Educational Programmes across the 7 areas of learning and children will be working towards the updated Early Learning Goals (ELGs) which are measured at the end of the academic year. If you would like to find out more information, please [click here](#) (Pages 5-15) If you have any questions, please email us at [Reception@westfield.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:Reception@westfield.staffs.sch.uk)



This half term, our topic is: **Marvellous Me**  
Here is some information on how we will support the children through the 7 areas of learning:

## Communication and Language

We will develop listening skills by taking part in small group and whole class discussions, activities and turn taking games.

## Physical Development

**PE sessions in Reception will be every Thursday afternoon.**

We will be focusing on using our bodies to move in different ways, developing control, co-ordination and spatial awareness with consideration for ourselves and others. In PE, we will be playing games using beanbags.

In the classroom, we will be exploring activities to strengthen and refine our fine motor muscles in readiness for some super writing!



## Maths

We will explore the story, 'Walters Wonderful Web' by Tim Hopgood to support children's understanding of simple 2D shapes and their properties.

We will practise counting in different ways and begin to notice patterns in numbers. We will use these skills to count a set of objects reliably by touching each object.

We will learn to identify numerals and practise recognising amounts without counting (subitising) e.g. dots on dice.

## Expressive Arts and Design



We will explore famous self portraits and create our own using a range of media.

We will use props to act out different scenarios in our role play areas: home corner, science lab and tea room!

## Personal, Social and Emotional Development



We understand that many children have spent a long time away from their Pre-school settings, without usual transition procedures. We will be spending lots of time focusing on the children's mental health and well-being as they settle into Reception. We will use the story, 'The Colour Monster' by Anna Llenas to support discussions on our feelings and how different situations may make us or our friends feel.

## Literacy

We will begin to learn the 42 individual letter sounds through **Jolly Phonics**



We will be learning a new sound every day, exploring its written form (grapheme) and practising how to write it using our school cursive handwriting font. At the end of each week, we will send home sounds taught so far to practise. This does not need to be returned to school.

Each day we promote a love of reading as we share stories and books as a whole class during story time. We will also be sending books home for you to share and enjoy together!

## Understanding The World



We will learn about how to keep our bodies healthy and use our favourite fruits to create and enjoy a healthy fruit salad.

We will become 'nature explorers' as we begin to search the school grounds for signs of Autumn.

# HOME LEARNING

We would be so excited to see any writing, maths and creative activities you have been doing at home. When brought into school we will encourage the children to take part in 'show and tell' to the class. If you would like to explore our 'Marvellous Me' topic here are some ideas (but please feel free to use your own ideas too):



Draw or paint a picture of your family or someone who is special to you. What makes them special?



What qualities make a good friend?  
Get an adult to help you write a list.



Make a model of a body.  
E.g. using playdough—take a picture and bring it to show us. What parts of the body have you included?



Help to make food that is special to your family.  
Share the recipe or show us a picture of you enjoying the food.



Paint the handprints of your family.  
Can you put them in size order? Who has the biggest hands?



How do you keep healthy? Keep an activity log of all the physical activities you do over the week. This could include walking to school, scooting, dancing or swimming lessons etc.