



# Welcome to Reception



This half term, our topic is: **Fantastic Festivals**

**'Fast fact': In Reception we learn how to use a comfortable grip with good control when holding pens and pencils (tripod grip).**



If you need to speak to the class teacher please email us at [reception@westfield.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:reception@westfield.staffs.sch.uk)

Here is some information on how we will support the children through the 7 areas of learning:



## Communication and Language.



We will be exploring questioning to find out more and extend our learning. We will listen carefully to a variety of stories and use story language or our own words to describe and retell in detail.

## Personal, Social and Emotional Development

We will take part in Children in Need Day so children can understand the concept and introduce the children to the loveable Pudsey Bear!

We will explore kindness and continue to use kindness vouchers.

## Physical Development

**PE sessions will be every Wednesday morning and Forest School will be every Monday afternoon. Please send your child into school wearing appropriate clothing and footwear.**

We will listen to different types of music and express our feelings through movement and dance, including putting sequences of movement together. Explore lots of festive music in the lead up to Christmas.

In the classroom, we will continue to explore activities to strengthen and refine our fine motor muscles to support our writing.

## Literacy



Each day we will promote a love of reading as we share stories and books as a whole class during story time. Our focus texts will be: 'Sparks in the Sky', 'Jolly Christmas Postman', 'Rama and Sita' and 'Stick Man'.

We will be developing our 'Talk4Writing' skills through lots of story telling, retelling and role-play. We will be creating story maps to help us remember the sequence of a story and use our phonics skills to help us to write.

In readiness for super writing, we will develop and strengthen our fine motor skills at our 'Funky Fingers' station and playdough area.

In Phonics lessons we will continue to learn grapheme, phoneme correspondence, focusing on: ff, ll, ss, j, w, v, z and y. Practise teacher led blending and oral blending to read words.

## Maths



Explore the stories, 'Three Billy Goats Gruff' to help understand composition of numbers 1,2,3.

Read, 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt' to help understand spatial awareness and use positional language, including using positional language through modelling and practising every day during tidy up time!

Continue to explore circles and triangles and go on shape hunts! We will read 'Circle' by Mac Barnett and Jon Klassen.

Continue to practise writing and recognising numbers to 10.

## Understanding The World

Learn about the traditions of Diwali and Christmas.

Talk about our own celebrations at home and family traditions.

We will work together to solve problems and make predictions in experiments.

Talk about the past and learn about Remembrance Sunday and why it is important.



## Expressive Arts and Design

Explore a range of art techniques as we create firework pictures, Rangoli patterns for Diwali and a range of Christmas crafts.

Practising singing, dancing and performing for our school Nativity, 'Christmas Recipe'.



# 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 'Fantastic Festival' topic here are some ideas (but please feel free to use your own ideas too):



Design and make a  
Stick Man.



Write a letter to  
Santa—use your sound  
cards or mats to help  
you sound out and  
write the words.



Draw a shape picture  
of a Snowman—can  
you use a circle,  
triangle, rectangle and  
a square?



Use different technology  
to take  
photographs of a  
celebration.



Design some Christmas  
wrapping paper—can  
you use a repeating  
pattern?



Write a shopping list for  
things you need for a  
party.