



Friday 8th September 2023

Dear Reception Parents/carers,

On the first Friday of each term, you will receive a letter outlining the term ahead, containing the key information you will need to know. Some of this you will already know from our school newsletter which is sent via email on a Friday and most other information was part of your "Starting School Guide" included in your pack. If you are not receiving the weekly newsletter, please email admin@sticklepath.org.uk to confirm you details.

Start of the Day

The school gates open at 8.35 and we register at 9am in class. If you arrive after 9am please go to the school office to sign in.

The children have been incredible with their independence this week, so a huge thank you for working on those transition routines and supporting your child to be able to stride so confidently into school. The fact that they are having to think for themselves and organize their own things has really empowered them.

Our Curriculum

In Reception, children are taught about similarities, differences and change in themselves, others and the world around them through a language focused curriculum.

This half term we are focusing on developing their understanding of key language concepts in order to build future learning through the remainder of the year and beyond. We will share the learning for the week ahead on Tapestry (see below). From this we will then develop their learning of themselves, why they are unique and how they are different to others. We explicitly teach about a range of emotions, how it feels inside our body, how it looks outside and understand things that make us feel that way. We explore families, again, drawing back to similarities, differences and change.

Next half term we build on our learning of emotions, our sense of self and learn about celebrations. We reflect on what celebrations are important to us and our families, but also others locally and around the world. This is the content of what we are learning, but a special thing about Sticklepath is how much time we spend on "learning about learning" which is explained below.

Growth Mindset

As a school, we believe that intelligence is not fixed but through hard work, perseverance and learning from mistakes you can grow your brain "smarter." We teach children that learning new things is hard and that is not always a comfortable feeling. Linked to our teaching on emotions, the children learn that this feeling is ok. As their growth mindset develops they learn to love that feeling of struggle, as they know this is when their brain is really growing. This is not something that will happen overnight but will develop over their 7 year journey with us and beyond. Growth mindset is

something we teach but more importantly, is woven into every fabric of our day. Whatever we are learning, we are always articulating the struggle, the tricky bit and mistakes with the children. These are the things we praise and celebrate. We use some key sentence frames to support this development.

Sentence Frames

We use sentence frames in many areas of learning and lots of these will already be familiar from our facebook videos prior to starting school and hopefully you and your child are already using them at home. We teach the children to “**use your words**” to help them in a range of situations. Here are some key ones we teach in the Autumn term:

Growth Mindset Sentence Frames

- **You try first and then I'll help you** (video on the New Starters Facebook Group) This encourages the children to have a go at something even if they perceive it to be too hard. The process of trying and failing has a huge value in the learning process. Say this to your child everytime they ask or wait for you to do something and then praise them for trying, regardless of the outcome.
- **I can't do it....yet!** Children learn about the power **yet**. If your child says I can't do it. You say “I can't do it yet.” This is key to your child understanding that there is lots they currently can't do but with practice and effort they will be able to do it in the future.
- **Practice makes you better.** We want the children to understand the getting better is more important than the traditional phrase “practice makes perfect.” We teach the children that they may practice and practice something and still not achieve a goal. They need to know that that is ok and that each practice is leading to improvement.

Relationships Sentence Frames

- **Please can I have it after you?** We teach the children to use this sentence when they want something that someone else has. The child being asked then has three choices:
 - 1.) Give it straight away
 - 2.) Play with it for longer and then give it to the person who asked
 - 3.) Play with it together (This is the one we encourage the most)
- **Stop I don't like that.** We teach the children that if someone is doing something you don't like you need to say “**Stop I don't like that.**” If the child stops then they have sorted the problem themselves without needing help from an adult. If the child does not stop, then they get an adult to help talk through the problem and learn from it.
- **First Then.....** We use this sentence frame to support the children with ordering events and helping them feel safe and secure. E.g First we line up, then playtime.

Tapestry

It is absolutely essential that you have activated your Tapestry account by completing the link we sent on **Wednesday 6th September** Please let us know immediately if you have not been able to access Tapestry.

In Reception, we use Tapestry to share the learning for the week and how you can best support your child's learning in the week ahead. During the week, we will share some of the learning and finally we will finish the week by sharing how you can review the learning and build on this with your child. Children achieve best when schools and families work in partnership and we hope that our use of Tapestry will support you to support your child.

Drawing club

This is a part of our daily routine in reception. We start by teaching pre writing skills through drawing. The children need to be able to draw a range of shapes and patterns before learning to form letters accurately and we will share this regularly through Tapestry.

Home Learning

We do ask that you read to and with your child on a daily basis. Reading is so crucial in developing early language and language development by the end of Reception is proven to be a huge indicator of later academic achievement. Again, we will use Tapestry regularly to update you on how best to support your child with reading as they progress through different stages. We will send your child home with a picture book next week so they can retell the story from pictures. This is a crucial skill in speaking, engaging the child in observing, noticing and describing. Following our assessment and teaching on letter sounds, we will then send home books to target early reading which we will explain via Tapestry.

Meet the Teacher

This year our Meet the Teacher days will be Tuesday 10th October and Wednesday 11th October. These meetings are a chance for you to meet your child's new class teacher and to discuss any important information regarding your child. It is also a chance for teachers to let you know how your child has settled into their new year group and class. Further information about how to book appointments will be sent out in October.

Christmas Performance

Each class will do a Christmas Nativity which we will be performed to parents in the school hall.

MPA – 9.30-10.15 Wednesday 13th December

LWA – 9.30 -10.15 Thursday 14th December

Further information will follow at the start of November.

Sticklepath School Nursery

We would like to make you aware that we have expanded our teacher led nursery with places available for 2 years old and upwards. We accept funded places for both 2 and 3+ aged children. Please contact ewilliams@sticklepath.org.uk for more information.

PE

For the Autumn term, we will do PE lessons on a **Thursday**. Please send your child to school in school PE kit (red sticklepath T-shirt / black shorts or joggers – T-shirts are available to order through MCAS app). They stay in their kit all day. PE will start on **Thursday 14th September**.

Polite Reminders - Please make sure:

- Children do not put their water bottle in their book bags as they will receive school reading books next week. These often get damaged from leaking water bottles.
- Please bring a named water bottle everyday.
- Have a coat in school everyday as we like to go out for fresh air in all weathers and support your child to put it on and zip it up by themselves. It's a great opportunity to use our "You try first and then I'll help you" sentence frame.
- All items of clothing are clearly named with your child's name.

Key Information for Autumn:

Every Thursday from Thursday 14th September – PE kit all day

Monday 25th September – Reception Author Visit – Joseph Coelho

Week beginning Monday 17th October – Meet the Teacher evening (letter to follow at the end of September)

Monday 4th December – Non Pupil Day

Wednesday 13th December – MPA Christmas Performance (Letter to follow after half term)

Thursday 14th December – LWA Christmas Performance (Letter to follow after half term)

Finally, we are really proud of how the children have started their Sticklepath School learning journey and we are so very excited about the year ahead.

If you have any queries do not hesitate to ask.

Best wishes,

The Reception Team