Camp Road, St Albans, Hertfordshire, AL1 5PG Tel: 01727 851056 Email: admin@camp.herts.sch.uk www.camp.herts.sch.uk

Gold Class – Spring Term Newsletter 2026

Dear Reception Parents and Carers,

We are so pleased to have you all back after the holidays and the children are settling back into their Reception routines. We are really looking forward to some exciting new learning experiences this term.

The Reception team are:
Mrs Trollope, Class Teacher Monday and Wednesday (all day), Tuesday, Thursday and Friday mornings.
Mrs Jacques-Mowat, Class Teacher Monday pm, Thursday pm, Friday pm.
Ms Burke Adams Classroom Assistant
Mrs Crichton Classroom Assistant
Mr Peter Classroom Assistant
Natasha Classroom Assistant

Curriculum focus

Our theme for this term is 'Our Wonderful World' where we will spend time learning about the world we live in. We have already started our first story of the term 'Lost and Found' by Oliver Jeffers which has some lovely themes such as friendship, feelings and emotions and it also introduces us to the South Pole. We will learn about arctic animals such as penguins and polar bears and we will compare their habitats with animals that live in hotter climates. This learning journey will also see us finding out more about our local area of St Albans.

The children will also be learning about the celebrations of Chinese New Year, Shrove Tuesday and later in the term the celebration of Eid Al-Fitr.

PSHCE

Personal, social and health and citizenship education sessions this term will focus on goal setting and achieving the things we set out to do. We have already started thinking about this and setting ourselves some new year's resolutions. Come and see our display in the classroom!

Phonics

In Reception we will be learning our sounds every day, following a scheme called Time for Phonics (please see link below) based on the programme Letters and Sounds. The children will learn up to 4 sounds every week. This term we will be focussing on Phase 3 phonics and have already covered the following sounds j, v, w, x, y, z, ch, sh, th, and ng.

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Books

Children will bring home a library book once a week to share with you at home. These books will be changed on a Friday. Please send your child's book bag every day as there may be other things such as letters or pictures to be sent home. The children's reading books are changed on a Monday. Keep reading sessions short and engaging with your child and when you have heard them read please write a short comment in their reading record book.

PE

PE this term will usually be on Monday and Thursday. However, please ensure your child has their PE kit in school every day. Most children leave them on their pegs until half term when they will be sent home for washing. We are getting fully changed for PE now so please practise at home and encourage independence with your child.

Buddies

In Reception each child has a buddy from Year 5. The buddies have been helping the children at lunch time both in the dining room and outside. The Reception children and the Year 5 children really enjoy buddies and will have a chance to meet up every Friday.

Building Blocks

As you may be aware, we will be offering Building blocks sessions. These sessions give you an opportunity to learn about how and what your child is learning in Reception such as, the way we teach reading and writing through phonics as well as other areas of the curriculum. The sessions will take place in our Community Room situated next to our classroom. You will have a chance to learn alongside your child for part of the morning, but we regret that no crèche facilities are available for younger siblings.
You will be invited to three, two hour sessions. Dates to be confirmed.

Craft and Cooking Contribution

To help us provide and replenish craft and cooking resources this term, we are asking for a voluntary contribution of £6.00. Payment can be made on Arbor. Thank you.

Other contributions

We are always pleased to receive any boxes, tubes, paper, buttons etc. to use in our craft areas.

Tapestry

We update Tapestry once a week with a snapshot of the children's learning from across the week. This gives you an opportunity to see their learning in action and use it as a conversation starter with them at home.

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Reminders

Things to be left in school:
PE kit and a bag with spare clothes to be left on their peg.
Please name all items of clothing. As the weather is very cold at the moment please bring hats, gloves and scarves.

Things they will need every day:

Book bag
A waterproof coat, a pair of wellies (which can be left at school or taken home).
Water bottle with water in (not juice)

We are really proud of how the children have come back to school after the holidays. They are full of stories, curiosity and fun. We can't wait to see what they can achieve this term.

Yours sincerely
Aimee Trollope, Mrs Jacques-Mowat and the Reception team