Parkdale School

A Transform Trust Academy

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September 2021

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s)

Welcome to Reception!

We want to start by thanking you and your amazing children for being brilliant during this rather unusual transition into school. Your children are settling in so well and getting to know school and ‘how things work’ in Reception. You have all clearly done an amazing job with them at home.

As we move towards a ‘normal timetable’ we want to let you know what we are planning for Autumn. Please be assured we have adapted our plans and understand that your children are truly a unique cohort. The pandemic has impacted their experiences, they have had such a strange few months and we put their emotional, physical and mental health at the top of our priorities (as we always have!). If you ever want to ask us about how your child is doing please feel free to email us and we will arrange a time to talk to you.

Our Website will be very active and we remind you to check your GDPR options if you would prefer not to see your child featured in these posts. We also share your child’s learning journey with you via our Tapestry app. You will find week ahead videos that give you ideas about games to play at home and a preview of what we are learning. If you think of anything else that you would like our support with please let us know.

“The world and my place in it”

This term we are beginning an exciting new topic for Reception, as part of the whole school’s focus on “The world and my place in it”. In the first half term Reception will be thinking about “What makes me special?” and celebrating their identities. Together they will look at their favourite things and think about how different it is to be 4/5 in 2021 compared to their parents’ and grandparents’ childhoods. At the end of the half term we will make a virtual time capsule, celebrating their favourite things, for them to look back on in years to come. We are also trying to organise a trip to do some outdoor learning at St Ann’s Orchard, because in Reception we love to get our wellies on and learn in nature! Hopefully we will have some more details about this soon!

In the second half term we will be talking about our community in our topic; “Who looks after our community?” and thinking about the people that make our school and area safe. We really hope this will involve some exciting visitors. Hopefully we will also be having you join us for some festive celebrations.

Can you help us?

We have some exciting activities planned and would really appreciate your support with some of these. In a couple of weeks, we will be talking about when YOU were 4 or 5. We would love to hear from you about the things that you loved; your favourite tv-show, musician or story book. You can either pop it on a note OR we would LOVE a very short video clip. WE KNOW this might be out of your comfort zone but your children would absolutely love to see you in their lesson saying something like…..

“Hi I’m Evie’s mum. When I was five I LOVED to watch Button Moon!”

Please email any clips to Mrs Rippon hrippon@parkdale.notts.sch.uk or dparkin@parkdale.notts.sch.uk

We will follow this up with a week all about Grandparents and their favourite toys, etc. We will remind you when this week is coming as we would love the children to have a phone call with a grandparent, great uncle/aunt, etc. and then tell us all about it.

How you can help your child

During the term we will be setting the following homework (guide timings are in brackets):

* Daily reading (10 minutes per night)
* Counting and Number recognition games (5 minutes every other night)
* Weekly phonics and handwriting review sheets (10 minutes weekly)

Your child will have the opportunity to share their reading books with their Teachers each week. This will be recorded in their reading diaries and books will be changed when appropriate. Children will have a reading colouring in sheet that we complete IN SCHOOL. This is part of our reward system and you need not do anything except celebrate completed sheets. Please note in their diaries whenever you read at home as we all are working to be Reading at Home Champions and win prizes for our class.

Thank you again for all of your support and patience. We can’t wait to get to know you and for you to become part of our wonderful community at Parkdale. We know lots of you are already part of our Parkdale family and we are just as happy to see you again! Enjoy your child’s first year at our school.

Thank you from all of ….

The Reception Team