

# CURRICULUM LETTER

Reception - Autumn 1



Ted  
Wragg  
TRUST

## Exwick Heights Primary School

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Tuesday 10th September 2024

Dear Parents/Carers of Exwick Heights Primary School Reception pupils,

### Personal, Social and Emotional Development

This half term, we will be exploring the theme: 'Being Me in My World'. Through a range of adult-led and child-initiated activities, we will explore what it means to belong and will think about the ways in which we are similar and in which we are all different. We will develop the skills needed to help us recognise and manage our own feelings and will enjoy working with others to make school a good place to be. We will learn about what being responsible means, with a focus on kindness and using gentle hands and will begin to understand children's rights: We should all be allowed to learn and play.



**Supporting learning at home:** Help your child to navigate any feelings associated with moving into Reception. Talk about kindness and encourage them to share with family our school values and routines. Can they show you how to sit in STAR or be 'Ready by 1'?



In **Communication, Language and Literacy**, we will begin our early reading and phonics sessions, learning within Phase 2 of the Little Wandle programme. This will cover the GPCs for: s a t p i n m d g o c k c k e u r h b f l, as well as the tricky words *is*, *I* and *the*. We will read wordless books to establish book behaviours, book talk and to grow vocabulary, with some children moving on to practice reading Phase 2 Set 1 books before the first assessment at half term. Developing a love of books, stories and reading is a key part of reception! We will have daily story times and learning activities linked to key texts including: *When a Dragon Goes to School*, *Tidy* and *The Little Red Hen*. Writing activities will focus on early letter formation and writing our name.



**Supporting learning at home:** Please share books and read with your child every day at home! It makes a huge and positive difference to their learning and development and is such a lovely thing to enjoy together. Encourage them to practise writing their name.

In **Mathematics**, we will be matching and sorting objects, creating sorting rules and comparing amounts. We will investigate different sizes, masses and capacities and will explore, copy, continue and create simple patterns. Our number work will focus on 1 2 3! We will find and represent 1, 2 and 3 in different ways, think about the different ways in which 1, 2 and 3 can be made up and explore 1 more and 1 less.

1 2 3

**Supporting learning at home:** Please continue to take every opportunity to practise counting at home. Enjoy water play in the bath or at the sink to compare containers that hold different amounts and enjoy continuing and making patterns from toys or everyday objects around the house.



REACH THE HEIGHTS

## Physical Development

**Gymnastics:** We will develop confidence in fundamental movement, experience jumping, sliding, rolling, moving over and under apparatus; and develop coordination and gross motor skills.

**Dance:** We will recognise that actions can be performed to music and will enjoy copying, repeating and performing some basic actions to music.

**Supporting learning at home:** Please plan time to share active and/or outdoor play with your child. This might include: jumping, walking, dancing, swimming, climbing, skipping, games such as hide and seek, throwing and catching, scooting, riding a trike/bike and other outdoor activities. All of these will enable your child to enhance and develop their fundamental movement skills.



This half term, as part of **Understanding the World**, we will begin with the theme *Our World*, helping us to develop our understanding of past and present by comparing school now to what it might have looked like long ago. *Autumn* will encourage us to use observation and natural objects to compare the changing seasons and, during our *Harvest* theme, we will begin to recognise that people have different beliefs and celebrate special times in different ways. We will also learn about the important jobs that farmers do over the Harvest season.

**Supporting learning at home:** Chat with older relatives or friends about their time at school and enjoy lots of autumn walks outdoors!



In **Expressive Arts and Design**, we will have varied opportunities to explore mark making and patterns, using a variety of resources, including wax crayons, felt tips, chalk and pencils. We will have a go at observational drawing and create our own self portraits.

In **Music**, we will be using our voices and our bodies to make a variety of sounds. We will explore the sounds of different instruments and will have a go at identifying sounds in the environment. We will also be doing lots and lots of singing! Our focus nursery rhymes for this half term are: *Wind the Bobbin Up*, *The Grand Old Duke of York* and *Ring a Ring a Roses!*



If you have any questions about your child's learning, please do not hesitate to speak to your child's teacher directly or email [admin@exwickheights.devon.sch.uk](mailto:admin@exwickheights.devon.sch.uk). If you have any concerns or want to bring something to our attention, please do contact the Year Group Lead - Mrs Mabin.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs J Mabin and Miss L Bradbury  
Picasso

Miss S Dugdale  
O'Keeffe