

Reception Discovery Newsletter Autumn 2020

We would like to welcome you to your child's exciting first school year at Hoole St Michael. It has been lovely to see so many of our Honeybees nursery children in our new class, but also wonderful to welcome new children and families too. We have been extremely impressed with how well your child has settled; so grown up and ready to learn and play!

This half term our topics will be linked books. We are going to use our maths topics as a focus alongside planning from the children's interests, to deliver an exciting curriculum for your child. We are starting with 'Getting to Know You' followed by 'Just Like Me!', 'It's Me 1,2,3!' and 'Dinosaurs'. Our curriculum overview focuses on the prime areas of learning and will be our initial focus for the first half term. Your child will also have daily Maths, English and Phonics teaching. This will be appropriate for your child's need and done in a really exciting and fun way! They will also have a weekly RE lesson too ☺ (they will be shattered by Friday!).



Our topic web can be viewed on the school website under [Classes](#) → [Discovery-what's new?](#)
It is also posted on our Discovery Dojo page.

The Early Years Curriculum:

Personal, Social and Emotional Development:

As the children enter this new social environment, they are encouraged to make new friends, to share and to take turns. The children will be encouraged to become independent learners in the classroom and this includes becoming familiar with classroom routines.

Communication and language development:

We will be giving your child opportunities to speak and listen in a range of situations and to develop their confidence and skills in expressing themselves.

Physical development:

During the year, we will be providing opportunities for your child to be active and interactive, and to develop their co-ordination, control, and movement. We will help your child to understand the importance of physical activity, and to make healthy choices in relation to food.

Literacy - Reading:

At Hoole St. Michael, we want to develop a love for reading right from the very start of your child's time with us. Reading activities will take place daily: 'Dojo jobs' will be set in the continuous provision, stories will be shared and your child can read in the reading area or our 'Reading Garden'. Your child will be heard to read on both on a 1:1 basis and also as part of a guided reading group. Children will always benefit from listening to grown-ups reading. This is where we really hope to foster a love of reading and enthuse your child. Reading for pleasure is developed when your child listens to stories, poems, non-fiction texts, rhymes and fairy/traditional tales (we will do LOTS of this). There's nothing better than listening to a good story or poem, perfect for bed-time chilling out time!

We ask that your child reads with you a little every day. You need to record this in your child's reading record book and return to school in their book folder. Please write a positive comment or anything you feel your child might need a little help with. Then, add any additional comments you wish for us to see about your child's reading e.g. If you think your child needs to re-read this

book; if there are any words your child has had difficulty with. **It is vital that your child reads every day at home.**

Phonics:

We will be beginning our daily phonics lessons week beginning 21st September, where your child will learn their very first phonemes and graphemes!!! Each week we will be sending sound work homework linked to the graphemes taught. This will be put on Dojo on a Friday and will support the learning from the week in school. For additional information on what phonics is see <https://www.theschoolrun.com/what-are-phonics-phases>

The following websites may also be of interest to you :

<https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/ChildrensMenu.htm>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/shows/alphablocks>

Writing:

Through our phonics and guided group time, we will teach your child how to form cursive letters correctly, write simple labels and captions. They will use their phonic knowledge to write words in ways which match their spoken sounds. We love watching children's writing emerge over the year! You will be amazed how quickly they show you what they can do.

Maths:

In Reception, the focus within mathematics is to ensure that all children develop firm mathematical foundations in a way that is engaging, and appropriate for their age. We will be using Numberblocks and White Rose materials working with numbers your child is familiar with getting them to have a deeper understanding of number; it is vital that your child gains this deep understanding to assist your child as they progress through the school. We will set more number 'Dojo jobs' within the provision for them to tackle independently too ☺.

Here is a link to the Number Blocks series

[:https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/search?q=numberblocks&sa_f=search-product](https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/search?q=numberblocks&sa_f=search-product)

Homework: EYFS Reception

As per our homework policy, which can be viewed on our website, homework for Reception should take no longer than 1 hour per week. It will consist of:

- daily home reading book (changed on Mondays and Thursdays)
- weekly 'tricky' word activities (linked to phonics phases) with a sound work containing the week's graphemes or spelling related work (sent via Dojo)
- Termly Homework Grid linked to the EYFS curriculum (also on our Dojo page).

P.E : Please ensure your child has their labelled PE kit in school.

- **Wednesday** : **Manipulation (early PE skills)** taught by Mr Pitcher.
- **Daily** : Daily 10 minute run and **physical activity built in to our play.**

As always, we are here if you need us. 'Our door is always open' even though you are unable to stay at the gate on drop off/pick up, we are still here for handover. We check Dojo regularly so please get in touch with us if you or your child need anything. You can always make an appointment for us to call you for a chat ☺

We are so happy to all be in school together, even though things are a little different; it's our new normal and we will make it a wonderful year for your child.

Mrs Mesghali, Mrs Lever and Team Discovery!