

Reception Discovery Newsletter Autumn 2021



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 too.

Our EYFS team who teach and support your children are Mrs Mesghali (Mon-Weds am), Mrs Hothersall (Weds -Fri) and Miss Radcliffe.

Our learning in Discovery for this half term will be based around the themes of 'Wonderful Me' and 'Colour.' We will use a weekly book theme alongside our maths topics as foci alongside the children's interests to deliver an exciting curriculum.

Our curriculum overview concentrates on the prime areas of learning which will be our initial focus for the first half term. Once settled in and we have carried out a baseline assessment of your child we will begin our daily timetable. This includes a daily maths, literacy and phonics lesson. This will be appropriate for your child's need and done in a really exciting and fun way! In addition to this, they also have a weekly RE lesson, PE lesson and PSHE lesson (they will be shattered by Friday!)

Our topic overview can be found 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 along with health care including oral health care.

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 the week beginning 27th 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 and 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 whilst 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 'Dojo jobs' which have a mathematical skill within the provision for them to tackle independently.

We will let you know which Numberblock episodes we have watched for you to enjoy at home with your child. Here is a link to the Number Blocks series :

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

Homework:

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 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. Children in Discovery have PE sessions on a Wednesday morning with Mrs. Hothersall. Our Discovery children have daily access to provision both indoors and outdoors which focus on both gross and fine motor skills.

As always, we are here if you need us - a vital key to your child's success is for the partnership between school and home to be a strong one : 'Our door is always open.' We check Dojo on a daily basis so please get in touch with us if you or your child need anything. You can also always make an appointment for us to call you for a chat. We can not wait for the year ahead to watch your child blossom, grow and develop a love for learning.

Team Discovery