

**Reception Curriculum Letter**  
**Term 1 September 2022**  
**Topic - Marvellous Me**

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to Reception at Paxcroft Primary School. This first term is an important familiarisation time, getting to grips with some of the basic school routines and working on building friendships. We are going to have lots of fun getting to know each other and learning all about our new school.

The curriculum is planned using the Early Years Foundation Stage Early Learning Goals. There are 7 areas of learning and descriptions of the main activities in each area are below:

**Personal, Social and Emotional Development**

A large amount of this term will be focused on beginning to understand and use the school and classroom routines. Opportunities will be given for your child to communicate his or her feelings, ideas and experiences. This will mainly be done through the introduction of Circle Times and dealt with sensitively to encourage confidence in this area. Activities will be provided for the children to form relationships with their peers and the adults in the class.

**Communication and Language**

This is a huge part of the Early Years Curriculum; almost all activities require language and communication. The children will develop their listening skills through Story Time, Circle Time and by following instructions. We will be learning how to communicate effectively with others.

**Literacy (Reading and Writing)**

This term we will begin to introduce the children to the school's reading scheme, phonemes (the sounds that make up words) and key words. We use the phonic scheme of Sounds Write to introduce the phonemes to your child. This scheme teaches the three essential skills of blending, segmenting and phoneme manipulation necessary for learning to read and spell and we teach this **daily**. At the end of each unit, your child will bring home letter cards for the sounds they have been learning along with activities for you to practice with them. Weekly, the children will be provided with opportunities for free and structured writing. The initial stage with writing will be to develop the confidence to put marks on the paper which the children give meaning to - this is known as emergent writing. Please praise all attempts at emergent writing. We will also be teaching the correct formation of letters through our handwriting sessions, please encourage your child to form the letters in their name correctly.

**Mathematics**

In class we will be looking at numbers all around us and becoming more familiar with number recognition and number formation. During many activities, including structured play, we will be counting everything and anything! Our focus will be to explore the composition of numbers within 5. The children will begin to compare sets of objects and use the language of comparison. We will be encouraging the children to subitise numbers to 5; recognising amounts of objects without counting. We will also be connecting quantities and numbers to finger patterns and explore different ways of representing numbers on our fingers.

**Understanding the World**

We will begin to familiarise ourselves with our new surroundings and get to know our new school. We will be going out and about on 'welly walks', especially in the lead up to Autumn and Harvest Time. Please can your child have a pair of NAMED wellies that can be kept in school. We will talk about the change in the season and explore the

changes first hand by collecting autumn objects and displaying them in the classroom. The children will begin to learn how to use the large interactive whiteboard and play games and draw pictures on an iPad.

### Expressive Arts and Design

The children will have an opportunity to use a range of materials to create 2D and 3D pictures and models throughout the year. They will have access daily to the creative area where they can use their imagination to turn junk materials into meaningful models; these will be brought home at the end of the day for your child to share with you. Please talk to your child about their model, what did they use to create it, how did they fix it together, etc.

### Physical Development

This term we are practising following instructions and becoming more aware of our own and others' space. Your child will have the chance to practise fine motor skills including holding and using a pencil/felt-tip/crayon correctly, threading activities, tracing and cutting.

It would be really helpful if you could encourage your child to be more independent with taking off and putting on their coat and jumpers/cardigans. Please make sure your child's clothes are **NAMED**.

The children will receive a healthy snack and milk during the morning but please make sure your child brings a named bottle (with a sports cap) of **WATER** every day.

### Homework

It is extremely important that once you have start receiving books, phonemes and key words that you regularly practise these with your child at home. This term, we will also be sending home a weekly fine motor skills activity for you to do with your child. We highly recommend that you do these activities as they will help to build up the muscles to prepare for writing.

This is a brief outline of what your child will be doing at school this term. We will send out another letter detailing workshops we will be holding next term to explore some of the areas in more depth.

We are looking forward to getting to know all the children during our busy and exciting first term. If you have any questions, then please come in and see us.

*Mrs Brooks, Mrs Hughes, Miss Heathcote & Mr Delaney*