

# South End Infant School Reception Newsletter January 2026

Welcome to an exciting New Year. We are all looking forward to lots of new learning opportunities.



because we are...



## What will the children be learning about?

This term we start a new theme, Pirates in the Cold. We aim to learn about many different places along the way including China and Antarctica. We will also be exploring the natural world at wintertime and will be getting 'Out and About' by exploring Rushden.

## Literacy: Reading and Phonics

By now, all of the children should know the basic letter sounds and be able to recall these. This term, we are going to become amazing word builders and readers. We will be playing with sounds to see what words we can make and making both real and nonsense or 'alien' words

### Supporting Learning at Home



- ☺ Encourage me to **independently** point to the words in my reading for learning books or the letters from my 'Super Sound Pot'.
- ☺ Remind me to **blend the sounds back together again** after I have sounded them out.
- ☺ Talk to me about the books I am reading, not just my school reading for learning books. Please encourage me to enjoy reading and listening to people reading longer stories and non-fiction books to me.
- ☺ Play **sound games** with me by using my 'Super Sounds Pot' and see what words we can make together.

## Literacy: Writing

We should now be able to hold our pencils comfortably and neatly write our names. This term's focus will be to write simple captions and sentences using VC and CVC words. To do this your child **needs to be able to recall letters from memory** quickly and easily. Please pop in and see a member of staff if you would like any ideas to further support your child. We will be writing lots of short captions and 'silly sentences'. Your child will need to 'say the sounds to write the word'. This means saying each individual word slowly and writing the corresponding letters at the same time. The adults in school will continue to model how to write simple sentences and teach strategies to help your child to hear the sounds/spellings needed to write words.

### Supporting Learning at Home



- Providing the motivation to write
- Sounding out words together, writing the sounds that can be heard.
- Continue to write simple CVC words like cat, hat, bat moving onto CVCC like tent, nest, pond, jump (encourage your child to hear each sound in turn.)
- Continue forming letters correctly and hold a pencil in a tripod grip.
- Write simple captions such as, 'I like...!', 'Mum likes...!', 'I can see...' or 'I went to the...'
- Write silly sentences using CVC/CCVC words like The red (CVC) hen (CVC) sat (CVC) on a pink (CVCC) rug (cvc). Pink pig is on a red peg or rub the big wet pup. Say each word in turn to your child and expect them to 'say the sounds to write the word.'
- Learn to write from memory the Sounds Write High Frequency Words. These can be found on the 'Tricky Word Challenge' sheets.



## Outside Learning

As we enjoy the soggy, damp and cold weather, please remember that your child will need their waterproof coat (with hood) and waterproof shoes. Please can you also ensure that your child has **named** scarves, hats, gloves and layers under their school uniform if it is very cold. The EYFS Curriculum actively promotes outside learning in all reasonable weathers, so we will continue to go outside regularly throughout the winter months. Rest assured that your child will be kept safe and warm as they enjoy their outside learning. We do have wellies and all-in-ones for those very wet, yet fun, occasions.



## Learning Journeys

Thank you, to everyone who has already started to work on 'Learning Journals' with your child. There will be three new ones to enjoy this term, including the chance to make a boat for us to test in the water tray! These books are to last the year so it is not too late to start. We always look forward to sharing them with the class and your children are always so proud as they talk through the pages. Keep a look out for your next challenge!

Thank you for your feedback during our 'Christmas Craft Stay and Play.' We really appreciated this. Your thoughts and ideas will be incorporated into our future home-school activity plans.

**Thank you for your continued support. We are always here if you need us!**

Please contact us via Tapestry, 'Contact Us' on our website, via the School Office or a handwritten note placed in your child's hand. Bookbags are only checked when we hear your child read.

## Names/Borrowed Clothing

We are still experiencing huge problems returning personal belongings to your children because items are not named. Please ensure that you name items, otherwise they will be given to local charities in need. We are always here to help and support you child and on occasions, the need has arisen to lend them some items of clothing. We only have a small supply of items and currently our stock is depleted because items have not been returned to us. Please return borrowed items as soon as you can.

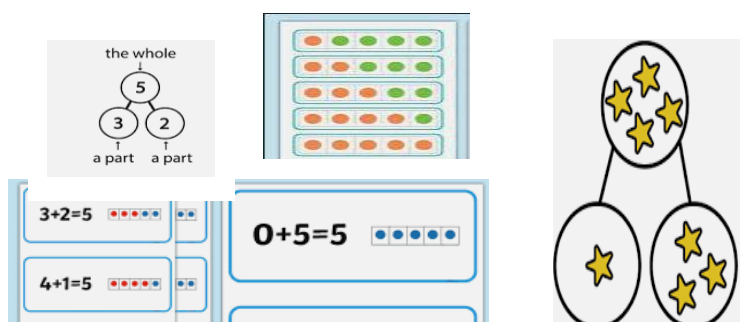
Thank you.

## Out and About

We are planning a walk around the local area to look at different types of buildings during the **am on the 27<sup>th</sup>** If you are free to help us on this excursion please tell a member of the Reception team.

## Maths

The children will begin to **really understand** numbers to five, focussing on the composition of each number. Through practical activities and learning how to use five frames and part-whole models, they will learn to recall 'number bonds' for 5 (all the different ways that two numbers can be added together to equal a specific total) as well as bonds for 1,2,3 and 4. They will begin to record their findings with jottings (simple mathematical pictures) or traditional number sentences.



We will also be measuring, the height, weight and capacity of the objects we are interacting with.

### Supporting Learning at Home



- Talking about sets of objects. For example, use toys to make number bonds. If you had, three dolls in one pile and then had two more. You would have five altogether. Explore different ways of moving the toys between two piles and encourage your child to talk about what you have done.
- Challenge your child to learn facts by heart e.g.  $0+5=5$ ,  $1+4=5$ ,  $2+3=5$ .
- Use the Kinetic Letters sheet to support your child to form numerals correctly.
- Make a cake or some biscuits and measure out the ingredients together.
- Measure everyone in the family. Who is the tallest? Who has the smallest feet or weighs the least?