



188 Sheen Lane, East Sheen, London, SW14 8LF

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020 8876 3323 www.thsboys.org.uk

## Curriculum Information Bulletin for Reception – Autumn Term 2024

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A very warm welcome to Tower House! We are so excited for your son to start school.

Please find below an explanation of some of the tasks your child will be undertaking this term and some top tips of how you can support him.

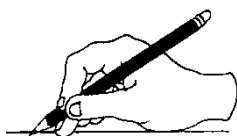
Initially we will continue to focus on getting to know each other. We will be concentrating particularly on finding out about our peers and learning their names. We will learn that we are members of a class/school and must try to behave according to the class/school code of behaviour i.e. we will learn about sitting quietly, putting up our hands, listening to others and sharing resources etc. We will be celebrating our similarities and differences and reading lots of stories, to encourage and support our focus. We will also be looking at how we celebrate various events at home and how people in other cultures celebrate. This will culminate in our Christmas festivities.

Our topic in the first half-term will be “getting to know you” and in the second half-term it will be “people who help us”. Through these vehicles we will access all areas of the curriculum.

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### **Tips to help with reading, writing and number**

- Encourage your child to paint, colour and draw on a large and small scale. Use a wide variety of mark makers e.g. wax crayons, felt tips, floor chalks, sticks in the mud and sand pit etc. It is particularly important when using pencils and felt tips that you help your child hold the pencil correctly, using the tripod grip.



A useful tip to help your child develop this grip is to explain it using “Froggy fingers”. “Put your froggy legs [thumb and forefinger] on the end of the painted part of the pencil [not on the cone shaped end part] with the pencil across the frog’s back [back of the hand], then put the log under the frog” [middle finger supporting the pencil to complete the tripod grip]”.

- Helping your child to write his name is invaluable. Begin by tracing, then copying and finally writing from memory. Remember - capital letters only at the beginning of the name and lower case letters for the rest!
- Throughout the year we will be following the Jolly Phonics scheme and aim to introduce approximately 4 sounds each week. You will receive a booklet containing all the sounds in the order in which they will be introduced. To help you keep track of the sounds we are introducing, your child will bring home a “sound” sheet on the day that the sound has been taught. We will practise hearing the sounds in words and recognising them in words around us.
- I will explain more about the process of teaching phonics in our Welcome and Literacy Meeting on Thursday 14th September.



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- You could help reinforce this work by reviewing the phonic worksheets your child brings home, practising the actions, listening for the sounds in words and finding the letters in books, on cereal packets, signs etc. Please remember to use the sound the letter makes and **not** its alphabet name at this stage. To help you ensure you are articulating the sound as we have taught the children please watch the following video clip:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DWQ6MeccRCU>
- **Do not panic if your child does not remember the sounds immediately – we will be re-visiting the sounds continually over the year to embed, consolidate and extend as appropriate.**
- In Reception we are developing basic reading skills. You could sometimes use finger pointing when you read to your child and show them how the words flow from one line to the next. You could use books as a focus for games e.g. “I Spy” from the pictures, finding words on the page that begin with “c” for example.
- From the week commencing 23<sup>rd</sup> September a phonics game suggestion and/or a decodable word list or a phonics reading book will be sent home on a Tuesday.
- Please remember to keep all books in your child’s Book Bag with the Reading Record so that we can always access it. Thank you.
- We shall be counting, recognising and ordering numbers 0 - 20. We will be beginning to understand the relationship between number and quantity, including notions of cardinality and ordinality and we will be developing the children’s understanding of different representations of number e.g. when shown on a dice or in two groups.
- You could help by counting objects, looking at how a number is made up e.g. 2 red counters and 2 blue counters is the same as 4, any form of counting forwards and backwards, recognising numbers in the environment, using the pages of a book to talk about what numbers come before or after etc.

### **To help with general independence**

- Can your child put on, take off and turn their coat/ jumper the correct way round, on their own?
- Can your child do up their coat on their own?
- Can your child have a go at getting dressed and undressed independently?
- Can your child take off, put on and attempt to fasten their shoes?
- Can your child hold a knife and fork correctly? Can they attempt to use their knife and fork to cut their food and eat it?
- Please help your child to use the toilet independently – can they wipe themselves, lift the seat, flush the toilet and wash their hands with soap? Inevitably accidents happen and rest assured that we are well prepared with changes of clothes etc. should they be needed. If your child is prone to having accidents it would be helpful if you could send in a change of clothes to keep at school.



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### **Other useful information**

- Birthdays: Children are invited to bring in a wrapped, 'birthday book' which they can open in front of their friends. This book is a donation to the class and will stay in school. Children are welcome to bring in birthday treats to give out to their peers at the end of the school day, please consult with us so we can make you aware of any dietary requirements in the class.
- Please remember to inform a member of staff at the Junior School entrance if your child has any appointments or playdates. This information is recorded in a 'Day Book' and will be passed on to Miss Clark.
- If you have a nanny/au pair collecting your son from school, please email Miss Clark with this information. It is most helpful to attach a photograph of them.

I hope you find this a useful overview of the activities we will be doing this term and some simple and valuable ways in which you can help at home. Please check the school newsletter for further school updates. Please do not hesitate to talk to myself or Mrs Bolton if you have any queries or concerns.

Kind regards,

Miss Clark and Mrs Bolton

### **Daily Reminders Sheet for Reception 2024-25**

#### **Monday**

- Come to school in formal school uniform.
- Return school water bottle, filled with water. Check your son's name is still clearly visible.
- Bring in book bag with phonics pack inside. Bring in school reading book and reading record to be swapped (once your child has begun to receive a school reading scheme book). A new book will be sent home every Tuesday.
- Your son will go to the library today. He will bring one book home each week, please return it each Monday so that he can choose a new one.
- Your son will do French today with Mrs Ropa.

#### **Tuesday**

- Come to school in sports kit.
- Your son will go to Games today with Mr Mullan and Mr Wing. Games is held at the Bank of England; the children will travel there on the school minibus.
- Once your child starts receiving a school reading book, they will be given a new one on this day to bring home for a week.
- Your son will do music today with Mr Jacob.
- Your son will do ICT today with Mr Churches.



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### Wednesday

- Come to school in sports kit.
- Your son will have Story Time with Mr Peyton/Mr Lunnon today.
- Bring swimming kit in swimming bag, please make sure everything is clearly labelled! The school will provide your son with a Tower House swimming cap. Your son will go to swimming with Mrs Bolton. *Please don't send swimming kit to school in a drawstring bag.* The first swimming session is Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September.
- Do not send book bag today.
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### Thursday

- Come to school in sports kit.
- Bring in book bag with phonics pack inside.
- Your son will have PE today with Mr Mullan.
- Your son will do singing today with Mr Jacob.

### Friday

- Come to school wearing sports kit, forest school overalls and wellies. Your son's first Forest School session is Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September. Bring trainers in a **large** labelled bag (children will put their kit in this after forest school). During the cold weather please send extra clothing (fleece, THS hat, gloves, THS scarf etc.) Please make sure everything is clearly labelled!
- Your son will bring home his school water bottle today, for a deep clean over the weekend.
- Your son will do art today with Mrs Bolton.