



The Pegasus Academy Trust

Reception Newsletter: Autumn 2019



Welcome back to all of our returning families and a very warm welcome to those who are new to the Trust. It has been great to see how quickly the children have started to settle in as they embark on the next stage in their learning. Every term, we like to write to you to keep you informed of what your child will be learning about as well as to make you aware of any upcoming events. Our topic this half term is **'It's Showtime!'** where the children will have the opportunity to learn and share what makes them, their families and their friends special. By sharing their likes, dislikes and cultures - through an 'All about me' approach - the children take centre stage and feel like the spotlight is well and truly on them!

Communication & Language: Over the next half term, the children will be learning, reciting all of the everyday nursery rhymes so that they can develop their speaking and listening skills as well as their 'story telling' language. The children will move onto learning about and reading the following books: 'So much' (by Trish Cooke), 'Funny Bones' (by Allan & Janet Ahlberg), 'Owl Babies' (by Martin Waddell) and 'Once there were giants' (both by Bernard Ashley). Through reading these family-themed texts, pupils will develop their communication and language skills and begin to understand how to structure their very own stories, 'writing' these through the use of marks, symbols and emerging letter shapes. Please encourage your child to mark-make at home when inventing story plots, allowing them time to 'read' their story to you. **Top tip:** if their marks do not look like letters or words, don't worry—they will in time!

Mathematics: This term the children will be learning how to count in steps of one, starting at '0' and ending at '10'. Pupils will learn how to rote-count these digits, through the use of number songs and rhymes, eventually being able to count sets of objects (E.g. car toys, dinosaurs etc.) within 10 once they have gained confidence in the recital process. At the same time, the children will develop a concrete understanding of the value of these numbers through a process called 'subitising' and number conservation - both will be explained during our curriculum meetings this term (see 'events' below!). The children will also learn about patterns using shapes, colours and objects, learning how simple and complex patterns repeat. **Top tip:** practise these skills at home, using a wide range of counting objects such as toys, pasta shapes, dried pulses and buttons (don't forget to begin at zero!). Singing number rhymes will help too!

Understanding the World: Kick-starting the new year, the children will be learning about a range of different religious and cultural celebrations and traditions unique to themselves, their families and their community. They will be engaged in learning about why some people celebrate Harvest Festival; understanding the cultural significance and practice of Diwali as well as recognising and sharing their own family traditions such as birthday celebrations, anniversaries and other special events. As well as this, pupils will be looking at the changes during the seasons and looking forward to special events of the Autumn term, such as Christmas.

Expressive Arts and Design: So as to get the year off to a great start, the children will be learning all about 'Getting along and falling out with others'. They will specifically learn how to show positive behaviours both in their learning and in their interactions with peers and adults through being taught how to take turns and share when using toys and equipment. In art and design, the children will be creating their own self-portraits using a range of different media, familiarising themselves with the features of their and others' faces. Whilst doing so, the pupils will develop their cutting skills and hand-to-eye coordination as well as exploring the properties of materials and how they can be manipulated and combined to create a finished product to be proud of!

Physical Development: In our PE sessions, as well as our outdoor learning, we will be working on spatial awareness; large and small body movements and playing turn-taking games which require team work. The children will also get to recognise different parts of their bodies and how they can use these in their movements. It is essential that your child has a P.E. kit in school. This should consist of a white t-shirt, red shorts and plimsolls and all items should be labelled to avoid them becoming lost. We have free-flow access to our outside environment every day, so please ensure that your child always has appropriate clothing for that day's weather forecast. On occasion, your child's uniform may become messy—please do not worry, this is evidence of their engagement and active learning. In our mark making learning, the children will be developing their small movements, concentrating on shoulder, elbow and wrist actions which will help them to write later in the year!

The Reception Team

Mrs Enahoro/ Mrs Smalley-Nicholson
Red Class

Ms Whorms
Orange Class

Mrs Dutton
Yellow Class

Don't forget to check the website for news and upcoming events at:

www.pegasusacademytrust.org

Dates for your diary	
Cypress Primary School	
Wednesday 18th September	Forest School information session for parents/ carers (9am, Lower School hall)
Friday 20th September	Jeans for Genes Day - wear jeans to school and donate £1 to charity
Monday 23rd September	Reception curriculum meeting at 9:15am in the hall - please come along to find out about the curriculum and learn how we teach phonics and early reading