Welcome to Autumn Term in Reception, our topic is ‘Marvellous Me’.

As your child settles in to school they are learning new routines, building friendships and working as part of a team. Our focus for this term is to celebrate ourselves and what makes us special, thinking about our similarities and differences and what makes us, us! We will find out about where we live, who is important to us and what makes us all unique.

Each day we have short whole class learning sessions for phonics, maths and stories as well as small group activities based around an area of learning. We will be learning to listen and talk to each other, taking turns to share ideas.

In our choosing time we can explore the learning environment and select and practise using resources safely and independently, whilst embedding new skills and knowledge through play.

In phonics, we start by tuning in to sounds around us, identifying different sounds in words and matching them to letter shapes. We follow the ‘letters and sounds’ programme for teaching phonics and so learn the letter names and sounds in a set order (not alphabetical!). You can find out more about this here: [htttp://www.letters-and-sounds.com/what-is-letters-and-sounds-.html](http://www.letters-and-sounds.com/what-is-letters-and-sounds-.html)

In the Early Years we support children to develop ‘Characteristics of Effective Learning’ and follow their interests in order to engage them actively in their learning. Please take a look at our curriculum map for all of the different areas of learning and some of the things we will be looking at this term.

Supporting your child’s learning at home:

The most important things you can do to support your child at home are:

* Talk to them regularly. Build up two-way conversations, model being a good listener and give them time to respond to you. Encourage the use of full sentences where possible.
* Read to your child as much as you can, make it an enjoyable time. Model being a reader, enjoying the story and point to the text as you read, encourage your child to join in. Talk about the book, ask questions and wonder aloud about the characters or what happened.
* Let them read you a story, using the pictures or retelling from memory. Spot words that they might know such as mum, dad, cat. Pick a word and see if you can spot it somewhere else in the book or around your home.
* Play games with them. Make learning something new fun! You could try: I-spy with my little eye something blue.. or I hear with my little ear (pick a sound or letter e.g. something that starts with ssss), What’s the time Mr Wolf (great for counting!), pairs (builds memory), snap (builds concentration), hide and seek…. (with numbers/ letters)

Here are some websites that you may find helpful:

<https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/>

<https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/shows/numberblocks>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/shows/alphablocks>

<https://inspiremyplay.com/10-tips-to-support-your-child-through-reception/>

Please come and speak to your child’s teacher if you would like any more information,

Miss Lovis and Miss Griffiths