



Keeping our families up to date with learning, events, resources and ideas for you and your child whilst in Reception at Goddard Park

Tadpoles Newsletter

Issue 1

September 14th 2026

Welcome to Goddard Park

We hope that your children have enjoyed their first full week of school, and you have enjoyed coming into school when dropping your children off in their new classroom. We are very happy with the way the children have settled so quickly into their new routine. Welcome to our first newsletter which we will be writing regularly to keep you up to date with all things “Tadpole” and “Early Years” related. We hope that you enjoy them!

Do we have your child's Wellington Boots yet?

We have already started using the three woodland areas in school and as the weather gets wetter and colder, we will be using them more and more.

Please ensure that your child has a pair of Wellington Boots in school. If you do not have access to any, please let us know as we have plenty of spare pairs!

Has your child got a water bottle?

The classrooms still remain warm and we want our children to be able to have a drink when they want to. Therefore, we encourage them all to bring in a water bottle which we will store in the classroom for them to get a drink when they feel thirsty.

They will be sent home each day to be washed and refilled. Please encourage your child to bring in their water bottle.

Can your child zip up their coat?

As the weather is due to turn colder and children are starting to wear their coats – can your child zip their coat up independently?

As a little activity at home – please share some time with your child showing them how to zip their coat up. It will then give us more time for playing once it gets colder and they can do this on their own.

Reading Record...

As part of the White Horse Reading Curriculum, we are providing you with a reading record. It is a small book which you can use to record what your child has read or shared with you, how often you have shared a book together and any other things you have done to encourage a love of reading at home. We will fill in the first box for you to show you how to do it, and then if you can carry it on, we can continue to change their books each week **when they return them to school every Friday**.

Rewarding your child for sharing books at home...

Every time your child shares a book with you at home, log it in their reading record. When they have 25 “reads” logged in their book, they will be rewarded with a certificate during our Friday Star Assembly. Please help us to help your child see reading as a fabulous activity and develop a real love for reading!

Why reading at home is important

As this is the first full week – we wanted to share with you some information which will help you and your child navigate the first few weeks of this term – with a particular focus on reading in school and reading at home.

Our Nursery Rhyme for this week:



Our Nursery Rhyme for this week:



Our Nursery Rhyme for this week:



Fostering a love of reading is vital to every child's success. Each day in school, we will be reading a wide range of poems and picture books as well as learning songs and nursery rhymes – and repeating them to build a bank of stories, songs and poems which your children will love, re-enact in play and no doubt, share with you at home. This supports a love of reading at a very young age. We promote language rich learning environments at Goddard Park – whether inside or outside through opportunities, resources and classroom talk.

Reading at home together is vital for children to see the importance of reading beyond school and to continue to hear even more words and a greater range of vocabulary from the books shared with them. We would like you and your family to support the love of reading by sharing a book everyday with your child at home – it can be the same book, a poem, a song, but sharing is vital. Some important information which has recently been shared on the importance of reading to language development in children at 5 years old which we think is vital to share with you too:

The “million-word gap” for children who aren’t read to at home

Frequency of reading at home	Number of words your child will have heard	As you can see, it is vital for language development that children share books, poems, stories and rhymes - and are read to. We do not want you to ask the children about the events in the story – they may want to talk about it, or guess what is going to happen – discussion is great – but the key focus is on sharing a range of books each day.
Never	4622 words	
1-2 time a week	63,570 words	
3-5 times a week	169,520 words	
Daily	296,600 words	
Five books a day	1,483,300 words	

As part of our classroom routine, we will share wide range of books each day, including repeating their favourite stories and poems. Repetition is a great way of building a love for favourite books, and going back to favourites allows the children to feel safe and to join in. If you want to read more about this research, use the link below:

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2019/04/190404074947.htm>

We hope that you will partner us in nurturing and fostering a love of reading, by using the resources from our library and, when the time comes later this term, using the class reading books to support early reading habits within phonics (more on this to follow in the coming weeks!)

We aim to send regular newsletters home to you with information to support you getting to know how our school works, and encourage you to feel a full part of our school community. Please do ask us questions on the gate as this is really useful to ensure that every parent has all the information they have to provide an excellent relationship between home and school to ensure your child thrives in school and makes the most progress possible.

Thank you for your support and if you need more reading materials, please let us know

Very best wishes, Mrs Pitter and the Nursery team

earlyyears@goddardpark.co.uk