

## The importance of promoting independence in your child

### Why is independence important?

Independence is about learning to do things for oneself, which includes making decisions and taking on responsibility. These are hugely important skills for children to learn to cope with in adulthood.

Helping children to become independent is seen as so important that it is a major focus of the Early Years curriculum.

Therefore, in Reception your child is actively encouraged to strive to do things for themselves rather than asking or expecting an adult to do it for them.

### Helping your child to make choices

Life is full of choices, and learning how to make good decisions is crucial. You can help your child by giving simple choices early on.

You might ask them which game they would like to play or which friend they would like to invite over. It is important to respect children's choices, even if you feel that what they have selected is odd! Outlining exactly what is on offer or giving the child some criteria to make the selection is a good strategy to adopt.

### What can I do for my child at home?

Start by looking to see what your child can do already, and build on this. If your child can put their coat on, maybe they can work on doing the buttons up or fastening the zip once you have started it.

Working alongside your child is often helpful so that they can learn skills by watching you. As tempting as it may be, doing everything for your child is not helping them in their future learning.

# Buxton School



## Reception



# parent Newsletter

Welcome back and a Happy New Year! We hope you had an enjoyable holiday. This Half Term our topic of focus is 'Food.' We will learn about different types of food, healthy eating and hope to do some simple cooking activities. Please be sure to check your child's bag for letters so you can keep up to date. learning.

### Reminders:

1. Thank you to everyone who has paid the craft money contribution thus far. This money has helped us to purchase lots of extra resources for our classes. If there is any money left over at the end of Reception we will use it towards our year group trip in the Summer. We kindly ask parents to contribute if they have not already done so.
2. As the cold winter weather continues, can you please make sure your child has a warm coat as well as a hat and gloves. Outdoor learning is a vital part to both your child's development and our curriculum; therefore all children are encouraged to use the outdoor area.
3. Each week we strive to read with each child one-on-one. This takes a lot of time but we know how important it is for developing a love of reading. If you have any spare time in your week and would like to read to children in Reception, please let a member of staff know. We would love to have some help!
4. Reading Morning is every Friday, providing the opportunity for parents/carers to come into class and share books with their child. Please make the time to join us!

### Dates for the Term:

- Spring 1 begins: Thursday 5th January
- Spring 1 finishes: Friday 10th February
- Half Term break : Monday 13th February-Friday 17h February

### PRIME AREA

#### Communication and Language:

- What are your favourite foods?
- Describing fruits and vegetables
- Listening and responding to ideas expressed by others in conversation or discussion.
- We will encourage children to use full sentences at all times.

### PRIME AREA

#### Physical Development:

- Developing writing and attempting to mark-make more independently.
- Working on catching and throwing games.
- Dressing and undressing with increasing independence

### PRIME AREA

#### Personal, Social and Emotional Development:

- Developing friendships and understanding our emotions.
- Using full sentences when answering questions.
- Looking at our talk partners when they are speaking.
- Using words to express how we are feeling.

### SPECIFIC AREA

#### Literacy:

- Continuing the development of segmenting and blending in order to read.
- Reading core stories each week on our topic
- Daily phonic lessons to reinforce letters and sounds.
- Writing labels, captions and simple lists using phonic knowledge

### SPECIFIC AREA

#### Mathematics:

- Counting objects using one-to-one correspondence.
- Recognising numbers 1-20.
- Using positional language to describe where something is located.
- Using ordinal numbers.
- Knowing what is one more or one less than a given number to 15.

Food

### SPECIFIC AREA

#### Expressive Arts and Design:

- Creating a Dragon Dance for Chinese New Year.
- Exploring different types of music
- Using junk modelling and collage to construct with a purpose in mind.
- Using role play to re-enact familiar stories

### SPECIFIC AREA

#### Understanding the World:

- Observing changes in the environment.
- Learn about the similarities and differences between themselves and others, and among families, communities and traditions.
- Using their senses to explore

