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Dear Reception Families,

We had another great week in Reception last week learning about the seasons of the year and patterns. We want to take the opportunity to say a huge well done to all of the children for their first half term! We are so proud of how well they have all settled into life at Saxon and the progress they have already made. We hope you all have a wonderful half term!

Kind hands

Last week, we had a special circle time to reinforce the importance of using kind hands. During our discussion, we talked about how we can show kindness and care to our friends through our actions and words. The children shared some lovely ideas of ways they can use their hands kindly. We also practiced saying "Stop I don't like it," if somebody is doing something unkind. We reminded the children to tell an adult, if they don't stop. We also spoke about some strategies we can use if we are feeling angry or cross, for example counting to ten and deep breaths. We were very proud of how well the children listened and engaged with the circle time. We would really appreciate your support to reinforce these messages at home, thank you.

Snacks

We are finding children are still bringing snacks to school that do not meet our healthy eating policy. Please see the below information from our school website, that details what snacks are allowed.

Healthy Snacks

All children are welcome to bring a healthy snack to school to eat during their break time. These should be in as little packaging as possible because we're also keen to reduce our use of plastics (e.g. no bear yoyos or fruit winders).

These snacks are limited to:

Fresh Fruit	Yoghurt tube
Fresh Vegetables	Plain crackers
Dried Fruit	Pitta bread or Wraps (with no filling)
Plain rice cakes	Crackers
Bread sticks	A handful of sugar-free cereal

If children come into school with something that is not on the list, it will be sent back home. No cutlery should be brought in. A reminder that only Reception and Key Stage 1 children are provided daily fruit or vegetables as part of the Government scheme.

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Learning

Our topic for this term is 'Super Me'

Our topics are highly influenced by the children's interests therefore activities may change from those planned.

Communication, Language & Literacy:

-We will read the story 'Kind' by Alison Green and discuss the different illustrations.

-We will learn some new vocabulary; courageous, miserable, petrified, considerate and valuable. Can your child show you the actions for these words?

-We will continue to practice the formation of the letters in our names.

-We will continue to practice the formation of the sounds we have learnt.

-We will write initial sounds in words and try to write some CVC words e.g. pin, sat, tap.

Phonics:

This week, we will revise all of our learning in phonics so far. Please find below an overview of this learning:

	Phase 2 graphemes	New tricky words
Week 1	s a t p	
Week 2	i n m d	
Week 3	g o c k	is
Week 4	ck e u r	I
Week 5	h b f l	the

Please practice sounding out and blending some of the words below with your child.

dog cup nod sat tin nap fat sock

Maths:

We are learning to find 1, 2 and 3. We are learning to subitise 1, 2 and 3.

Please find below a link to an article that explains subitising. This is a skill we will practice throughout the year in Reception and we encourage you to practice it at home too. Playing dice games is a brilliant way to do this and there are further ideas shared in the article.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zsjbcmn>

Other Areas of Learning:

- **UW (Understanding the World)** – we will think about how to be kind to each other. We will explore some pumpkin themed activities.

- **PSED (Personal, social and emotional development)**- We will learn how to work together with others and consider other people's feelings.

- **EAD (Expressive arts and design)** – we will create an acts of kindness tree. We will create some spooky and pumpkin themed crafts!

- **PD (Physical development)**- we will create shapes with our bodies.

Festivals and Celebrations:

Next term, our topic will be 'Fantastic Festivals'. We would like the learning to reflect and be inclusive of the beliefs and celebrations that our children experience at home. If you would be willing to share about a celebration that you recognize in your family, we would love to welcome you into our classrooms to share this. Please speak to your child's class teacher, if you are interested.

Notices/reminders:

- Keep an eye on Tapestry to see the learning that is happening at school. From time to time your child's teacher will share extra ideas to support their individual learning. You can also share learning, experiences and achievements that are happening at home on Tapestry.
- Following the children's interests we would like to develop our outdoor role play area into a salon! If you have anything at home you think might be useful to donate to this, please speak to your child's class teacher.

As always please come and see us if there are any concerns or questions, we are happy to help.

Kind Regards,

Mrs Morley, Miss Margetts and Mrs Lewis