

Reception Newsletter Spring 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

We hope you all had a fantastic Christmas and New Year and wish you all a very happy 2020! It was lovely to welcome the children back to school on Monday and to hear about their presents and Christmas celebrations. May we take this opportunity to thank you for the wonderful support you have given your children during the past term, and we hope that you will continue to do so this term as your support at home is vital in helping your child's progress. Below are some areas we will be focusing on during the coming weeks;

Communication and Language

- Reinforcing listening skills.
- Developing the ability to respond to questions or ideas expressed by others.
- Acting out stories and extending our role play abilities – using a widening vocabulary when re-creating roles and experiences.

Literacy – Reading, Writing

- Reinforcing the phonic sounds already taught and continuing to learn new sounds.
- Blending and segmenting words - containing all phonic sounds taught.
- Using our knowledge of letters, sounds and words when reading and writing.
- Continuing to write simple words, captions and sentences.
- Reinforcing the Tricky Words taught so far and continuing to learn new ones.

Mathematical Development

- Counting, comparing and ordering numbers – to 10 then 20 and beyond.
- Counting backwards from 20
- Writing numbers to 10 then 20
- Beginning to understand addition – i.e. knowing that we combine two sets of objects/numbers.
- Beginning to understand and use the vocabulary related to money, weight, capacity and height.
- Beginning to use mathematical names for 'solid' 3D shapes – cube, cylinder, cuboid, sphere, cone.

Knowledge and Understanding of the World

This term's topic is 'My World' and it will include the following;

- Looking at different weather conditions and seasonal changes.
- Going for a walk in our local environment and discussing its features, e.g. roads, houses, shops.
- Introducing the concept of a simple map.
- Learning about different occupations and people who help us – Post Office workers, Police, Fire Service, etc. (visiting a local post office, visiting "Head of Steam" to learn about our wider town and also having visitors in to school)
- Using various computer programmes independently.

Expressive Arts and Design

- Creating winter tree pictures.
- Painting and drawing various road signs.
- Making 3D signs and models for class display.
- Creating Easter artwork and making Easter Gardens.

Religious Education

- Developing our understanding of different cultures and beliefs – looking at Chinese New Year.
- Understanding the celebrations and traditions of Easter.
- Learning some of the Bible stories that Jesus heard.

Physical Development

- P.E will usually be Thursday afternoons – (occasionally other days when necessary) **Please could we remind you that for health and safety reasons, hair should be tied up and no jewellery should be worn.**
- P.E kits should be kept at school at all times in a small bag on your child's peg and should consist of a T-shirt, shorts and sand shoes. **All P.E. kit and school uniform should be clearly labelled with your child's name please to help avoid items from becoming lost. Thank you.**

Reading Books

- Reading is a vital skill and it is extremely important that you help your child to develop their reading ability by reading with them **every night**, as reading is something which improves with regular practise. Reading books will continue to be changed on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. **Please re-read the book the following evening –i.e. read the book given on Monday that evening and again on Tuesday evening and your child will receive their next book on Wednesday.** Reading a book more than once helps your child to become more confident when reading as they are already familiar with the words, and this repetition also helps them to read more fluently. As they read the book for a second time you could ask them questions about what they are reading, as it is important that your child understands the story and the words they are reading – e.g. “What did Mum ask Biff?”, “What did the boy do?” “Where were they going?” “How does Dad feel?” etc. You could also ask them to point to specific words e.g. “Can you point to the word “had” “and” “got” etc, or can they find the “Tricky Words” such as “the”, “no”, “he”, “was” etc. As your child's reading progresses, their book may be changed as soon as they have completed it. Sometimes we may read part, or the whole, of the book at school and ask you to re-read it at home. Again, by doing this it will increase your child's confidence. Please sign and make a comment about how your child has coped with the book. **Please read with your child for around 10 minutes each day.** Thank you.

Reception Library

- Library will continue to take place each Friday after school. You are welcome to come into the classroom to choose a book with your child. **Please remember to write down the title of the book** on your child's library card and **please return the book the following week.**

Work at Home

- Please continue to support your child with homework activities, as this really does make a huge difference to your child's progress. Working Together books will continue to be sent home on Fridays to be returned by the following Wednesday. Please continue to sign and make any relevant comments once your child has completed their homework or home activity, as this helps us to assess how well your child has coped with the activity and whether any additional support or reinforcement is required. Thank you.

Websites

If you have internet access at home, please find below a reminder of some of the websites that the children enjoy using at school. We're sure that your child will also enjoy showing you how to use them at home!

www.phonicsplay.co.uk

www.ictgames.com

www.crickweb.co.uk

<http://www.letters-and-sounds.com/>

www.teachyourmonstertoread.com

Could we please remind you that the staff are always available to talk to should you have any questions or concerns about your child. You will also be able to discuss your child and their progress at the next Parent's Afternoon/Evening which will take place later this term.

Thank you for your continued support,

Miss. Tricker & Mrs. Matkowski