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### **Reception Newsletter - Spring 2023**

Dear Parents/Carers,

We hope you all had a fantastic Christmas and New Year and wish you all a very happy 2023! It was lovely to welcome the children back to school 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**

- Asking questions to find out more and to check they understand what has been said to them.
- Articulating their ideas and thoughts in well-formed sentences.
- Describing events in increasing detail.
- Using talk to help work out problems and organise thinking.
- Explaining how things work and why they might happen.
- Listening to and talking about stories to build familiarity and understanding – being able to answer more complex questions.
- Being able to re tell stories using some exact repetition of repeated phrases and some in their own words.
- Using new vocabulary in different contexts.
- Developing an understanding of poems and engaging in non-fiction books.

#### **Literacy – Reading, Writing**

- Reinforcing the phonic sounds already taught and continuing to learn new sounds – learning more digraphs (two letters that make one sound e.g. ai, ee, oa) and beginning to learn trigraphs (three letters that make one sound e.g. igh, ear, air).
- Blending and segmenting words - containing all phonic sounds taught.
- Practising reading phrases and sentences.
- Continuing to write words, captions, then simple sentences – as appropriate to each child.
- Reinforcing the Tricky Words taught so far and continuing to learn new ones.

#### **Reading Books**

Reading is a vital skill and it is extremely important to your child's overall academic success. It is therefore crucial that you support and encourage your child with their home reading, as it is something which improves with regular practise.

During this term – when it is appropriate for your child - the children will be taking part in reading practise sessions in school and will begin to bring these books home each weekend to re-read with you at home.



Reading a book more than once helps your child to build their confidence when reading as they are already familiar with the words, and this repetition also helps them to read more fluently. The children will have three reading sessions each week and will read the same book during each of these sessions. The first session will focus on decoding – i.e. breaking the words into sounds in order to read the sentences. The second session encourages the children to use expression when reading and looks at any punctuation i.e. speech marks, exclamation marks etc. The final session each week concentrates on the children’s comprehension skills – i.e. their understanding of what they have read, and asks questions about the story. **The children will then bring this book home on a Friday so that they can re-read it with you at home. Books should be returned to school each Monday please.**

Please encourage them to read it to you and celebrate their success. We want reading to be a positive experience for both you and your child. Don’t worry if they find a particular word difficult, just help them with it and then move on. There are tips for helping you to read at home in the front of the blue reading record they will be bringing home with their book. Please sign and make a comment about how your child has coped with the book. Thank you.

### **Sharing Books**

The children will continue to bring home a sharing book each Monday. This book is for you to enjoy reading and talking about together. Sharing books should be returned by Friday each week please so that a new book can be chosen the following week. If your child would like more than one sharing book each week they are more than welcome to return the book before Friday and exchange it for another one.

### **Mathematical Development**

- Understanding that zero is 1 less than 1.
- Being able to compare quantities up to 5 and beginning to compare quantities 6, 7, 8 and then 9 and 10.
- Understanding the composition of numbers 4 and 5, then beginning to understand the composition of numbers 6, 7, 8 and then 9 and 10 – i.e. knowing that larger numbers are made up of combinations of smaller numbers e.g. 4 is made up of 2 and 2, or 3 and 1 – and 7 is made up of 3 and 4, 5 and 2, or 6 and 1.
- Combining two groups of objects to find the total
- Understanding that a pair is 2.
- Can arrange small quantities into pairs.
- Begin to use odd/even language.
- Continuing to learn about weight, length, height and capacity – being able to use the correct vocabulary.
- Estimating the weight of objects and using balance scales to check our estimations.
- Copying and creating increasingly complex repeating patterns – being able to identify an incorrect pattern and correct and explain the mistake.

### **Understanding 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.
- Learning that some environments are different from the one in which we live.
- Introducing the concept of a simple map.



- Learning about different occupations and people who help us – Post Office workers, Police, Fire Service, etc. – beginning to understand that we are part of a wider community.

### Expressive Arts and Design

- Creating winter tree pictures.
- Painting and drawing various road signs.
- Making 3D signs and models for a class display.
- Creating Easter artwork and making Easter Gardens.
- Making observational drawings of spring flowers.
- Beginning to discuss how music makes us feel.
- Talking about changes and patterns in pieces of music.
- Acting out stories using puppets during role play.

### Religious Education

- Developing our understanding of different cultures and beliefs – looking at Chinese New Year.
- Beginning to understand that some places are special to different members of our community
- Understanding the celebrations and traditions of Easter.
- Learning some of the Bible stories that Jesus heard.

### Physical Development

- Throwing a beanbag using an underarm throw – then throwing it to a friend.
- Being able to catch a beanbag.
- Bouncing and catching a large ball whilst standing still.
- Controlling our body to move in different directions and ways that require quick speed.
- Using precision and accuracy when beginning and ending body movements
- Being able to move more fluently, developing control and grace and improved balance and agility.

P.E will be Monday mornings. **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 draw-string 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.**

### Working Together Books

Working Together books will continue to be sent home on Fridays to be returned by the following Wednesday. Please remember to read the weekly letter inside the book as it contains information and dates of any upcoming events. Please continue to sign and make any relevant comments in the box at the bottom of the page. Thank you.

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**



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