



Reception Newsletter – Term 4



Dear Parents/Carers,

We are so pleased that we are now heading into Spring! The school always looks beautiful when the spring flowers and blossom starts to appear. It is great that the children will start choosing to spend more time in our outdoor provision.

Early Learning Goals

The children in the Early Years Foundation stage are working towards 17 Early learning Goals across the curriculum. A copy of these goals will be emailed home at the start of term so that you can see what we are working towards this year. Your child's end of year report will detail which of these goals they have met and any that they may still be working towards.

Phonics and Literacy

We are currently at the Phase 3 "Mastery" point of our phonics teaching. This gives us a chance to recap those tricky digraphs and trigraphs. Towards the middle of this term, we will assess the children's knowledge of the sounds taught so far to check that we can move onto phase 4. Thank you for all of your hard work at home on the flashcards- please keep plugging away at those that we have circled in your child's yellow comment book.

Part of the new *Early Learning Goal* for Reading is to ensure that **each child knows ten or more digraphs** - a tricky task!

Writing

There will be a big push on independent writing this term as we move towards the Early Learning Goal, which is to be able to write a simple independent sentence. Lots are now writing CVC words and we are thrilled that quite a few can already produce a simple caption about a picture. Simple sentences/captions that you could dictate at home are those with CVC words such as: "A big red bus" for example.

Please encourage your child to hold their pencil correctly and to use finger spaces between words. After these sorts of basic sentences are mastered, please encourage your child to write about anything they like! They could write shopping lists, weekend news, birthday cards to friends, little stories etc.

Speaking and listening

We will be having a big focus on oracy (speaking) this term. To help with this we will be memorising short poems from the Poetry Basket book and reciting them aloud with actions. At home, you could help your child by learning nursery rhymes and songs by heart. Have a look at BBC Radio Children's songs online- we use this site a lot.

Reading

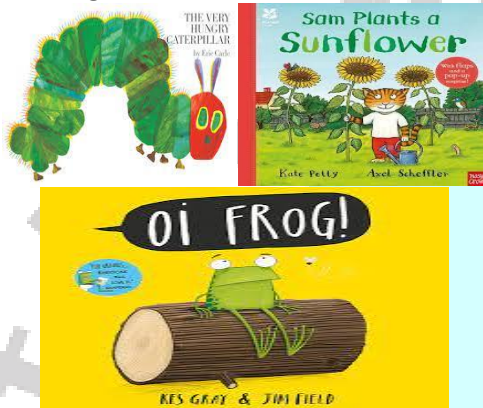
Please keep on hearing your child read as much as possible at home. Thank you so much to all of the parents who have managed 4 or more comments every week. It is vital that the children read as much as possible, particularly in their reception year- to aid confidence and increase enjoyment! If a child sees reading as a chore that is difficult they won't foster a love of reading. Some of the children are racing through the reading scheme and are becoming confident readers. As with everything, the more they practise, the better they'll be.

Mathematics

In Maths this term, the children will be consolidating numbers 1-10, number bonds to 10, 3D shapes, pattern, subitising, counting on and back, numeral Recognition and ordering numbers. Every week there is a maths activity as their homework. This is always an extension of the maths focus that we have covered that week in school.

Knowledge and Understanding of the World

This term our topic is **Spring and Growing**. We will be reading the story of *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, *Sam Plants a Sunflower* and *Oi Frog!* We will then look at the life cycles of a butterfly and a frog. We always visit the school pond to look at the tadpoles and later, frogs.



As well as this, we will be planting and watering sunflowers. We are also keen to get the children out into the conservation area to do some planting later in the term.

To also link with our topic, we are having Forest School sessions every Friday. This is an opportunity for the children to explore the natural world and it's great fun. Please make sure that your child's wellies are in school every Friday this term.

Expressive Arts and Design

This term we are having a drawing focus using the class text of the week as a starting point. The children will be using patterns that they find from the natural environment and drawing these patterns using a variety of drawing equipment, e.g. oil pastels, pencils, charcoal etc.

Homework

Homework is collected in on a Wednesday, marked and is given back out every Thursday. Please ensure your child's folder is in their bag on a Wednesday so that it can be collected in. Thank you to all of the parents who are helping their child complete their homework on time each week.

Book bags

Please make sure that your child brings their book bag to school every day with all their books inside. Please can we ask that you check your child's bag regularly for letters and clean out any old things as some children's bags are stuffed full and this makes it tricky to find things!

Water bottles

Please can you ensure that your child has a named bottle in school every day, preferably with water inside to coincide with our *Healthy Me* unit in Jigsaw and our teeth brushing initiative.

Tooth Brushing

The children are really enjoying brushing their teeth every day in school. We usually brush at around 2.30pm and try then not to have a drink so as not to rinse off the fluoride. Please still supervise brushing at home in the morning and before bed as we are not able to supervise everyone 1:1 in school.

As always, many thanks for your continued support at home.

If you have any concerns or would like to talk to us for any reason, do pop in after school rather than at the gate in the mornings when things can be a bit hectic.

Jo Wilton and Sariah Ithier.

Key Dates

6th March - World Book Day
17th and 20th March – Parent Meetings
27th March – Faith Day
2nd April – Disco
4th April – INSET Day