



**Spring term**

Happy New Year! We hope you all had a wonderful Christmas break. It's great to be back and we are really looking forward to the next term. This term we will be learning all about different animals and rewriting the story of The Little Red Hen which follows the journey of a hen making some bread. During this topic we will be lucky enough to have a visit from a local baker and then at a later stage, we will also visit the bakery to buy some bread ourselves. These first hand learning opportunities will hopefully inspire the children and we are sure that they will enjoy it and will produce some high quality writing!

**Literacy**

The children will be continuing to follow the 'Letters and Sounds' programme for phonics. The children will be starting phase 3 phonics and learning the phase 3 tricky words whilst also recapping those covered in Phase 2. Once the children are secure in this knowledge they will continue to work through the programme.

Each sound is learnt with a 'Jolly Phonics' song and action. You can find them on YouTube if you type in 'Jolly Phonics'.

You can also find some phonics games on the following websites:

<http://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/ParentsMenu.htm>  
<http://www.ictgames.com/literacy.html>

**Maths**

This term we will be really challenging the children's maths skills. The children will be learning how to double and half using objects. They will also be learning about money and how to add using coins. They will be learning how to use the language of time and also how to read the time (o'clock and half past).

We will be building on the children's knowledge of adding and subtracting. We will also be recapping on 2D and 3D shapes. The children will be learning about their properties such as corners, sides and faces.

Some useful websites:

<http://www.ictgames.com/resources.html>  
<http://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/5-7-years/counting>

**Understanding of the World**

The children will spend time this term learning about people in our community such as the baker and those that work in the bakery. They will learn about different occupations as well as different animals and their habitats.

**Expressive Arts and Design**

We will be having lots of opportunities to explore different types of media. Our favourite paint bar is always available as well as ready-made paint and lots of different things to use to make models. There is always playdough and junk modelling available in the resources area. We love seeing the children's imaginative creations!

**Physical development**

The children will be continuing to do P.E in the school hall this term. We have arranged for a local Karate teacher to come into school during week 3 and they will provide an opportunity for the children to experience a karate session. This term the children will continue to get dressed into their P.E. kits. We encourage the children to do this independently. Please encourage your child to have a go at getting dressed and undressed independently at home.

**Homework**

Please continue to read with your child at least once a day (even if it is only for 5 minutes) and make a note of this in their reading diaries.

Every week we send home a Literacy (Geraldine the Giraffe) and Maths (Wizard) activity. These were hugely successful during Autumn Term and the children really enjoy sharing their work with friends so please continue these where possible.

**Parental contribution**

We ask for a small parental contribution of £3 at the beginning of each term (Autumn, Spring and Summer). This is to cover things like flour for playdough, ingredients for cooking or any special little bits and pieces that we need. Please could you send it in an envelope with your child's name on the front. Thank you for last term's contributions.

**'Nut free' school**

Please remember we are a 'nut free' school. We have some children and adults with severe nut allergies so it is important that no nuts are sent into school even in empty boxes for junk modelling

We would like to invite you in at 2.50pm every Friday to see what we have been learning about during the week. We will be continuing to develop our outside area and would appreciate any donations of plants, bulbs or anything we can use outside. As you can see we will be very busy! Many thanks, The Reception Team ☺

