



Dear Parents,

We hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and New Year break. The children have settled well into the new term and we look forward to a fun few months ahead. Below you will find information about what the children will be learning this term.

School Values:



Our core value this term is **CURIOSITY**. We want to instil a love of learning and a sense of wonder in all children. This term we will be focusing on encouraging them to explore, ask questions and to try new things. Curious children build a love of learning, far beyond the walls of the classroom.

Topic

Our topics in Reception are inspired by the children's interests and children are involved in the planning of each topic. Our general themes for this term are 'Cold', 'Chinese New Year' and 'Heroes'. Within our 'Heroes' topic there will be specific focus on learning about Fairytale.

English

Phonics

This term the children will continue to take part in daily phonics lessons. We are now working on 'Phase 3' sounds, which will include learning to recognise and write digraphs (one sound made from two letters) and trigraphs (one sound made from three letters), for example 'sh', 'ai', 'ee' and 'igh'. They will continue to spend time using the sounds that they know to blend (read) and segment (write) simple words. As part of our phonics lessons this term, there will also be a greater emphasis on learning to read and spell the Reception tricky words, such as, 'said', 'was' and 'the'.

Writing

The children are enjoying using rhymes to help them to ensure that they write their letters using the correct formation. We will continue to practice these using a wide range of mark-making materials. We are encouraging the children to become more independent in their writing and to 'have a go' at applying their phonic knowledge all by themselves. This term we will be challenging the children to write simple sentences and will support them to use finger spaces and to sit their letters on the line.

Reading

This term we will continue to hear the children read regularly. This may be as part of their phonics lessons, group activities or by sharing their reading book. We are very excited to be in the process of developing a new 'reading garden' in the classroom. Here, the children will be able to share and retell stories, dress up and listen to a variety of audio books. As your child progresses through the school reading scheme, don't forget to re-read the words and each sentence with your child, as this will not only help to develop their fluency and accuracy, but will also enable them to gain a greater understanding of the story. Please continue to encourage your child to discuss what is happening in the pictures, make predictions and to talk about the characters and setting in the story.

Maths

This term the children will be learning about:

- Number bonds to 5 and 10
- Addition and subtraction (using numbers to 10)
- 2D and 3D shape
- Positional language e.g. under, over, next to
- We will also be looking specifically at the numbers 0, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 e.g. what is one more or one less than those numbers, how we write those numbers, how we count to and from those numbers.

We plan to arrange a Maths workshop where you can come in to see what the children are doing in class towards the end of the term or beginning of the Summer Term. We will send a letter home about this soon.

PE

This term the children will continue to take part in their PE lesson on a Monday afternoon. They have made good progress with dressing and undressing and we are now encouraging them to do so with a little more speed. Please can we ask that on a Monday the children wear uniform that allows them to change quickly and independently, for example, polo shirts rather than buttoned shirts. In lessons this term the children will explore the equipment in the school hall, including the wall bars and ropes. They will learn to travel over, under and through apparatus, both confidently and safely and will continue to develop their balance and coordination.

PSHE (Personal, Social and Emotional Development)

PSHE is woven throughout the curriculum and enhanced during our circle time sessions and assemblies. It involves helping children to develop a positive sense of themselves and others, build positive relationships and develop respect for themselves, others and property. The activities enable children to learn how to identify and manage their feelings; understand appropriate behaviour in groups; have confidence in their own abilities and keep themselves healthy and safe.

RE (Religious Education)

This term children will be learning about different celebrations. These will include Holi, Persian New Year and Chinese New Year.

Show and Tell

For show and tell this term we would like the children to bring in their favourite picture book from home that they could talk about and share with the class. Please can we request the books are taken into school on a Monday and aren't too long in length as throughout the week we would like to read the book they bring in to the class. Please also ensure that they are clearly named.

Show and Tell

W/B Monday 03/02/20 – Badgers

W/B Monday 10/02/20 – Hedgehogs

W/B Monday 24/02/20– Squirrels

W/B Monday 02/03/20 – Foxes

Homework

- **Reading books:** A huge thank you to those of you who have been reading regularly with your child, 5 to 10 minutes every day is ideal. Books will continue to be changed on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday as long as they have been shared at home, please remember to make a note of this in your child's reading record so we know that they are ready for a new book.
- **Letter Formation:** We will continue to send home letter formation practice sheets on a Friday. Please use these to help your child to write each letter using the school's formation and using the rhyme to help them. If you need another copy of your child's laminated name card then please let us know.
- **Phonics Packs:** It is lovely to see the progress that the children are making with the sounds in their phonics packs. Please continue to practice these regularly, at least three times a week.

Ways to Help Your Child at Home

Please find below some suggested activities that will help to support your child's learning in school. The most important thing to remember is to ensure these activities are fun and stimulating, as this will help your son or daughter to develop a love of learning.

- **Talk!-** Encourage your child to tell you about his or her day, ask open ended questions and share your own stories too. For those children who are reluctant to share their daily news, Tapestry is a great tool. They will enjoy looking through the photographs with you and it may encourage them to discuss their activities from the week.
- **Problem Solving-** There are many opportunities for you to challenge your child to solve simple practical problems. When setting the dinner table, you could ask how many 'more' forks are needed or when sharing toys, ask them to ensure that each person has the same number.
- **Rhyming-** Rhyming is an important skill in early reading. Have fun finding objects that rhyme, play rhyming pairs or create rhyming strings together.
- **Dice Games-** Dice games are fantastic for not only developing your child's math skills. They also help the children to learn to take turns, share and to play a game with rules.
- **Fine motor skills-** There are several fun and practical ways to help to develop your child's fine motor control which will enable them to manipulate a pencil with good control. These include, pegging washing on the washing line, threading beads/pasta, cutting with scissors, wringing out flannels/squeezing water out of empty bottles in the bath and manipulating playdough (pinching and squeezing).

Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any further queries or questions.

Kind regards

Mrs Bailey, Miss Douglas and The Reception Team