



 Mr. Gary Spracklen - Headteacher (@Nelkcarps)  
 Maiden Castle Road, Dorchester, Dorset. DT1 2HH  
 01305 257120  office@princeofwales.dorset.sch.uk  
 <http://www.princeofwales.dorset.sch.uk>

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Wednesday 9th January, 2019

## Reception - Class Newsletter - Spring Term 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the spring term! I hope you have all had the opportunity to recharge over the Christmas break. This term we are going to be having a big focus upon writing (see further down) as well as ensuring that all the sounds we have already learnt are embedded and secure. On top of that we will be looking at how our environment is changing heading into spring and to help us with that we'll be doing some gardening, cooking and tracking the weather.

We're also going to be stretching our number knowledge by counting on and backwards, counting in 2's and beginning to look at simple addition.

As you can already see, we've got a busy term ahead and we can see that the children are coming in eager to learn.

Thank you for your support in this and we look forward to continue working with you.

Topic – Much like the autumn term we will be covering our work in topics. These typically last no longer than four weeks at a time and most of the time are shorter. Our topics for this term are:

The Elves and the Shoemaker leading into Cinderella and a glittering ball to celebrate the topic and then knights, castles and dragons.

The Gambia – Every year as your child goes through the school they will do a unit of work on the Gambia. The reception unit of work introduces children to Fatou – a girl who lives in the Gambia. This topic also links to the story 'Fatou Fetch the Water' by Neil Griffiths.

Science Week – a whole school topic.

Chinese New Year – We will look at the traditional story of Chinese New Year and from this we will be doing some writing and maths. At the end of the topic we will be having a Chinese feast.



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Growing and Change – A brilliant topic looking at how the environment around us is changing from winter, and what else will continue to change. As well as this we will explore the meaning of Easter and why it is a celebrated Christian festival.

## Dates for diary:

- 14th January - Parent Information Session
- W/C 5th February - Parents Evenings
- 11th February - Science Week
- 15th February – Teacher Training Day
- 18th-22nd February – Half Term
- 29th February - Reception Class Assembly
- 7th March – World Book Day (Costume Required)
- 5th April – End of Term

Wow! Moments – We are already very grateful to all of the parents that have brought in Wow! Moments to share with us. Thank you very much! We strive to read them all out to the children before sending them for Mr. Spracklen to see. Please continue to bring in Wow! Moments as these do contribute towards how we assess children. If anyone needs any ideas for what to write on Wow! Moments please don't hesitate to come and ask us.

Snacks and Water – To maximise our brain function and encourage a healthy lifestyle, a healthy snack in school each day in addition to a bottle of water is recommended! We are encouraging the children to drink and eat smart by keeping hydrated through the day and be conscious of what they are eating. The school also provides free fruit for children to have as a snack at lunch time. Children under the age of 5 are also entitled to a free bottle of milk every day. If you wish to continue receiving milk over the age of 5 please see the office for details on how to pay. Snacks, such as crisps and sweets will be positively discouraged. Children are also being much more adventurous with the hot dinners, thank you for all your support in this area.

Reading & Writing – We will be continuing to have daily Read Write Inc sessions. Please continue to change individual reading books, in the library, as often as you feel necessary. As children become more comfortable with reading we will be encouraging a higher level of writing. All the children seem enthusiastic about writing and to support this we will be basing our writing in a real-life context with opportunities for children to discuss what it is they are going to write. As with any skill, practice is crucial! We would encourage you to begin writing single letters, words or even phrases and sentences at home with your child to allow more opportunities to hone this important skill. Any writing that children do do at home we would love to see! We aim to cater for all children and will adjust our objectives according to the ability of each individual child. As a result of this the groupings of children may change as the term goes on. If you have anything you wish to discuss with us regarding reading or writing, please come and ask us.



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Blog/website - We try our best to keep our class blog up-to-date and hope you find it a useful source of information. This information can be accessed at home, work or on your mobile using our class RSS feed:

<http://pow-reception.blogspot.co.uk/>

Or by clicking on the 'reception page' on the school website (through the blogs link). We hope you will find this method of communication useful. You can now comment without being required to sign in. We would encourage you to comment on blog posts as it is always nice to share in class what children have been doing at home. We welcome your thoughts on what else could be included on our class blog.

We continue to use the schools' website for Pupil links. Under the reception folder there will be a growing number of folders containing links and activities to help further your child's learning. In accessing online material and resources, may we remind you of the school's policy on using the Internet at home, which is to always supervise your child when using the Internet. There is also a parents folder with some useful links for you to use.

PE Kits - Please could you ensure that your child has a full PE kit in school! We will be planning activities to develop children's skills over the term through dance and games activities. As children are growing it may also become necessary to replace some elements of their PE kit and we will let you know if any items no longer fit children.

Rights and Responsibilities (Jigsaw) – We have been thinking about how we can ensure that our classroom remains a happy, safe and fair place to be. The class charter we designed in the Autumn is used alongside the DASP caterpillars to support expectations for behaviour in school and children will regularly be told when they are fulfilling one of the caterpillars. The children have decided on their rights and responsibilities whilst they are in school. Over the term we will be looking at resolving disputes and how we can manage our emotions more effectively. In Jigsaw the topics that we will be covering are Dreams and Goals and Healthy Me. For each puzzle children will be encouraged to share their experiences and consider some key questions.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs. S. Johnson  
Reception Class Teacher



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