



Burwell Village College Primary School

Reception Newsletter

Spring 2019

Mrs Weaver-Smith, Miss Walker and Mrs Reeder
PPA Cover: Mrs Pickles, Mrs Woolf, and Mrs Lee

Introduction

The Autumn term was a great success. The children have all settled well into school life and are rising to the challenge of becoming independent learners. We have learnt all phase 2 and 3 phonemes of the Jolly Phonics programme and introduced the children to 'Numicon' as a counting aid. The children enjoyed a variety of topics based around the seasons and well known stories. I think you will all agree, that a highlight of the term was our performance of 'A Miracle in Town'. The children enjoyed learning the songs and wearing their costumes.

This term we will be encouraging children to become more aware of themselves as learners. This is based upon the Characteristics of Effective Learning that form part of our EYFS curriculum. You may hear children talk about themselves as being an Explorasaurus, Tryasaurus Rex or a Thinkatops. Please see the Dojo post that explains a little more about the characteristics of each 'new' species of dinosaur. There are also displays in the classroom too.

Spring Term

Literacy

In Literacy we will continue to develop children's knowledge of phonics through the Jolly Phonics scheme. We will be revising the phonemes taught so far and reading words with consonant blends and digraphs, e.g. **string**, **nest**, **train**. We will continue building on the children's knowledge of phonemes to segment words to aid writing them. We will also be focusing more on letter formation and how to read and spell tricky words e.g. come, came, the, there. During guided writing sessions, children will be encouraged to orally rehearse and write simple sentences. Being able to say and remember the sentence helps when they come to write it.

Mathematics

In Mathematics we focus on counting from 1-20, recognising and ordering numbers and practical addition and subtraction activities. Children will practise finding out about doubles, halving and sharing. They will experience using money in practical contexts and learn about repeating patterns and simple tally charts and graphs. Children will also investigate 2D and 3D shape and will explore measuring weight, length and capacity with non-standard measurements i.e. cubes and cups.

Themes

This terms themes will include: Winter, Journeys, Transport and Exploring, Space, Chinese New Year, Pirates and sea life, Easter and Spring. Do pop in to the classroom after school on the first Monday of each month to chat and look at your child's work. It is helpful for you to see what we are learning about in class and the progress your child is making.

Physical Development

In PE we will be concentrating on gymnastic skills, small and large apparatus, dance and balance bikes. We will continue to develop the children's skills such as co-ordination, throwing and catching and balancing through use of large and small apparatus.

Children will be encouraged to become more independent at looking after their own possessions and about making healthy lifestyle choices.

Reminder: Children need a full PE kit including suitable outdoor PE shoes and jogging bottoms. Hair should be tied back and earrings **need to be removed** before children come to school.

PE day is Thursday (Rec A) Tuesday (Rec B and C)

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

We continue to help the children to settle into school and become familiar and confident with their environment. We help the children to make new friendships. We discuss expectations and appropriate behaviour in school including looking after their own property. During the second half of the term, we will focus on identity and diversity and the community they live in.

Communication and Language

We encourage children to talk about their out of school activities with the rest of the class. We support children to listen carefully and ask appropriate questions. We continue to provide opportunities for children to develop their communication skills across the curriculum. We learn a variety of stories, songs and rhymes off by heart.

Understanding the World

We develop the ability to use the mouse and touch screen through a variety of different programs on the classroom computers. We programme Bee-bots to travel. We think about changes in the environment during winter and spring. We will explore how materials can be changed e.g. explore ice and predict ways that we could stop it from melting. We will learn about different modes of transport, journeys to different parts of the world including different climates, animals and key geographical features.

Expressive Arts and Design

We use paints to explore colour mixing. Children have the opportunity to print using a variety of objects. We develop skills of observational drawing. We encourage manipulative skills using a variety of tools and materials such as collage papers, play dough and clay. We concentrate on developing listening skills. We learn a variety of new songs working on rhythm, singing in time to the music and percussion work. Children will also have the opportunity to learn how to handle musical instruments correctly.

Term dates

Spring Term opens to pupils - **Friday 4th January 2019**

Staff Training Day – **Friday 15th February 2019**

Half term break week commencing - **Monday 18th February 2019**

Returning to school on **Monday 25th February 2019**

Spring Term Closes - **Friday 5th April 2019**

Summer Term opens to pupils – **Tuesday 23rd April 2019**

Parent Consultations - **Tuesday 26th February 2019: 3:30 – 6:00 pm**
Thursday 28th February 2019: 3:30 – 6:00 pm

This term we will be introducing a new family learning event called 'Busy Bee Café'.

Each class in turn will hold a café for parents to attend and spend time taking part in fun activities that help their child learn. Our first café will be based on the theme of Healthy Eating. Cafes will begin at 2.00 pm and will finish at 3.00 pm. The dates are as follows:

Reception A – **Monday 11th February 2019**

Reception B – **Wednesday 13th February 2019**

Reception C – **Thursday 14th February 2019**

This term you will be invited to attend a class sharing assembly. It is a lovely opportunity to see some of the things your child has been learning at school this term. The assemblies begin at 9.10 am and finish at approx. 9.50 am. The whole school will also come to watch. The assembly will be in the Main Hall.

Reception A – **Friday 29th March 2019**

Reception B – **Friday 5th April 2019**

Reception C – **Friday 15th March 2019**