

Dear Parents

Welcome back to the new school year. I hope you all had a lovely Christmas. This term will be short but busy with lots of exciting activities to pack in.

This term we will continue to work on the children's phonics, reading and maths. The children will build on the progress they have made in our adult focussed work but will also have opportunities to practice these skills in their play. New resources and a new layout in the reception area of the class have allowed the children greater choice in accessing their own learning and we will build on this over the course of the term. If you feel your child has a particular interest that we might use as an enhancement to their learning please let us know and we can try to build it into our provision.

Mrs Garley
Class Teacher

Communication & Language

Listening, Understanding & Speaking

We will be holding another Talk for Writing morning on Wednesday 25 January at 9.45am and hope that you can come along. Please could you let us know if you are able to make it by emailing the office or writing in your child's reading record. You will be able to see, first hand, how we embed language structures and inspire confidence in your child's ability to use familiar, sequenced stories in order to create their own.

As a class, the children will begin this term by hearing the story *Piggybook* by Anthony Browne. As usual, they will be told this orally to enable them



to visualise the characters and setting themselves. Children will follow the usual 'Hear, Map, Step, Speak' process to embed the sequence and story language then they will perform the story to the rest of their class in order to link role play to the story telling process.

The children will also listen to and learn other stories throughout the term, so watch out for *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* where links will also be made to healthy eating.



Homework

Thank you for your participation in the Busy Bee activities last term. The same types of activity will be sent home this term and as before, you are welcome to annotate what your child says as they are engaging in the activity.

Please continue to request the **key words** to practise with your child at home. These are the high frequency words that will help your child when they come to write more independently as the year progresses.

Phonics

This term Reception children will be learning the letter sounds (not the letter names) to *m, a, s, d, t, l, n, p, g & o*. With all of last term's sounds learnt they are beginning to blend sounds together, read short books and write CVC words (consonant, vowel consonant) eg: mat, sat, pat etc.

Reading

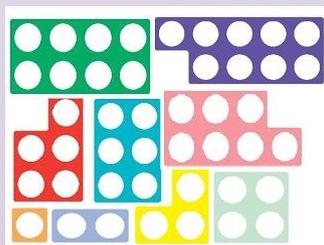
Your child will continue to have guided reading sessions in school and will also continue to have books sent home to read with you.

Handwriting

We will continue to use the Nelson handwriting scheme to teach your child correct letter formations, sizing and to sit letters on lines. Children are taught how to hold their pencil correctly to help them have the most control over their formations. In order to support your child with this at home it can help giving them a purpose to write is helpful, perhaps suggesting they make their own story books with words and pictures. They could bring it into school to share with their friends. Simple accessories such as treasury tags or stapling the book to make it look real all help.

Mathematics

Number



We will continue to support your child's number knowledge this term through the use of Numicon apparatus.

This term Reception children will:

- explore numbers 1-10 extending to teen numbers
- find one more than a given number
- begin to use the language of adding and taking away
- find the total of two groups
- estimate amounts

Shape, space and measurement

- To sort geometric shapes using their mathematical name
- To recognise the everyday language of money
- To recognise coins and sort them in different ways
- To investigate position and the associated language eg: behind, next to
- To order using length or height
- Use everyday language related to time

The children will have a balance of adult-led and child-initiated activities throughout the school week. During the adult-led activity they will work in a small group.

Understanding the world

People and communities

The Reception children will experience some of the Key Stage 1 curriculum lessons linked to the play-based Early Years curriculum. This term the Key Stage 1 children will be learning about Celebrations and special times in RE.

Technology

The children are able to access computers with educational based programmes during the day. They are also given opportunities to use creative software to design and draw.

The World

In History this term, the Year 1 and 2 children are learning about other fires around the world including The Great Fire of Chicago and the wild-fires in Yellowstone National park. Again, Reception children will be engaging in activities based around this theme with a more 'hands on' set of activities to support their learning.

Music

This half term class 1 will be contrasting musical elements. They will understand the importance of listening carefully to music, with the focus on the contrasts: loud and quiet, jumpy and smooth, high and low, fast and slow. They will continue to develop listening, rhythmic and concentration skills with the emphasis on the three note values - crotchets, minims and quavers.

Physical development

Our PE sessions will be swimming with Mrs Ogden at Maidwell Hall on a Monday afternoon and a PE lesson every Thursday afternoon with Mr Smith.

Please note that PE kits should be brought into school on a Monday and remain until Friday in case of an alteration to the timetable or an extra PE lesson. Please ensure your child has kit for indoor and outdoor PE including outdoor trainers.

Reception children also have free access to bikes, scooters and cars throughout the course of the school day in order to help them develop their gross motor skills. Outdoor painting with large sheets and brushes also helps work on these movements.

Their fine motor skills are developed through light box tracing, beading, threading and daily 'Dough Disco' activities to exercise their hands which, in turn helps to improve their pencil grip. The children will have the opportunity to make their own bead curtain for our new book reading area during the term.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

This term we will be focussing on the school ethos of the 5Rs of Learning. The children will focus on being:

Ready for learning

Resilient in their learning

Resourceful in their learning

Reflective in their learning

Responsible for their learning

These topics will be covered during whole school assemblies where the children will work as part of a mixed age group led by a Year 6 child.

It will, as you can see be a busy and fun term.

Please write your child's at-home achievements or special experiences on the bright stars which are intermittently put in their book bags. This enables us to work together to celebrate the unique experiences and achievements of your child.

If you have any questions about your child at school or the expectations in any area, please don't hesitate to come and speak to us.

