

Dear Parents

Welcome to the second part of the Autumn Term. We hope you had a lovely break. The children settled in beautifully last term and we're sure they enjoyed having a rest.

The children now know the routines and expectations of school life and have begun to build positive relationships with each other and with adults in the setting.

*Mrs Littlewood & Mrs Garley*  
Class Teachers

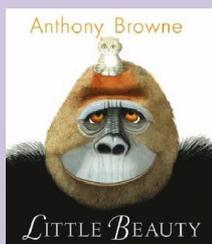
## Communication & Language

### Listening, Understanding and Speaking

The children will have many opportunities to engage in role play throughout the school day. There are always a variety of costumes, props and role play areas available to the children and it is within this type of play that the children learn new vocabulary and communication skills from each other. Sometimes the role play equipment is placed inside, sometimes out. At times it is based upon the children's interests and at others it is to enhance a topic or story understanding that they are learning in class.

## Literacy

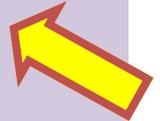
This term the children will hear the story *Little Beauty* by the wonderful children's illustrator and author, Anthony Browne. The story is about an unlikely friendship formed between a large gorilla able to do sign language and a dainty little cat. The story opens up many questions about 'judging books by covers', stereotypes and being brave to help a friend.



The illustrations will be used heavily to ask comprehension questions and to generate some powerful adjectives as the skills focus this term is *Description*.

The children will engage in the usual process of mapping, stepping and acting out the story to embed the narrative and eventually overlay and invent their own version of this sweet tale.

**Please join us for the Talk for Writing EYFS morning on 22 or 23 November (note the change of date from previously advertised).**



## Writing

As always, the children will have a sentence modelled to them every day. The adult will say their thought process out loud as they are remembering to keep their letters on the lines, use finger spaces, capital letters at the start and 'push their sound buttons' as they write.

Before long the adult will begin to "accidentally" make mistakes such as missing out particular sounds or spaces between words in order to be (usually gleefully) corrected by the children who very quickly pick up the structure and layout of a simple sentence through writing being modelled to them.

Children will at first create stories using story maps (as you have seen modelled during our EYFS Talk for Writing Morning) and use their imaginations to change the direction or characters or the narrative. They will create tool kits for each type of story and use these 'tools' to improve their oral and written stories.

The children will work with talking partners to engage in role play activities such as phone calls and hot seating.

## Spelling

Thank you to those of you who have been helping your child to remember the key words sent home each week in the front envelope of their Busy Bee books. It has been a real success in class, allowing them to create their own actions and pictures to help them remember the words and some have memorised them already!

As with last term, each week your child will have five new words inserted into the front envelope of their Busy Bee book. When they can read and write them, these will be put into the back envelope and they will be given the next five and so on.

### First 100 High Frequency Words

in frequency order reading down the columns

|      |       |        |          |        |
|------|-------|--------|----------|--------|
| the  | that  | not    | look     | put    |
| and  | with  | then   | don't    | could  |
| a    | all   | were   | come     | house  |
| to   | we    | go     | will     | old    |
| said | can   | little | into     | too    |
| in   | are   | as     | back     | by     |
| he   | up    | no     | from     | day    |
| I    | had   | mum    | children | made   |
| of   | my    | one    | him      | time   |
| it   | her   | them   | Mr       | I'm    |
| was  | what  | do     | get      | if     |
| you  | there | me     | just     | help   |
| they | out   | down   | now      | Mrs    |
| on   | this  | dad    | came     | called |
| she  | have  | big    | oh       | here   |
| is   | went  | when   | about    | off    |
| for  | be    | it's   | got      | asked  |
| at   | like  | see    | their    | saw    |
| his  | some  | looked | people   | make   |
| but  | so    | very   | your     | an     |

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Cursive

## Homework

Your child will continue to come home with a 'Busy Bee' book each Friday. You are welcome to annotate what your child has said whilst completing the homework or any comments that they have made. This needs to be handed in the following Thursday of each week. The homework for the week will always be sent out on ParentMail so that you will have access to the task requirements.

## Phonics/Reading/Handwriting

In the coming weeks, we will begin our teaching of phonics, reading and letter formation. The sounds your child will learn this term are as follows: h, 'sh', 'r', 'j', 'v', 'w', 'th', 'z', 'ch', 'qu', 'x', 'ng', 'nk', 'ay' and 'ee'.

At Maidwell Primary School, we teach handwriting by means of the Nelson Handwriting Scheme. To ensure that your child experiences consistency with home and school learning, please take note of the particular letter formation that this scheme advocates. This will help us to avoid your child spending time 'unlearning' alternative letter formations when they eventually begin to join their letters.

Aa Bb Cc Dd Ee  
Ff/f Gg Hh Ii Jj  
Kk/k Ll Mm Nn Oo  
Pp Qq Rr Ss Tt Uu  
Vv Ww Xx Yy Zz

## Reading

Thank you for listening to your child read each day. Please remember to put your signature/a comment in the yellow book so that we can give your child the next book in the reading scheme. There is a direct correlation between reading progress and the amount of time children are heard reading.

The children read to an adult in a group at school daily.

## Mathematics

### Number

This term children will:

- continue to work on reciting the count sequence from 0 to 10
- order Numicon shapes by size
- describe the pattern of ordered Numicon shapes in relation to each other
- begin to explore relationships between Number Rods
- count collections of objects accurately increasing to 10
- begin to compare number rods by length and describe relationships between them
- join in counting to find 'How many?' in different situations
- give number names to Numicon shapes
- label Numicon shapes with numerals

### Shape, Space and Measurement

This term children will be taught to:

- Order several items by length or height
- Measure short periods of time in simple ways
- Use everyday language related to money
- Sort shapes into 2D and 3D
- Find 3D shapes in everyday objects
- Measure each other using unifix cubes and use language/vocabulary related to height and length

The children will have a balance of adult-led and child-initiated activities throughout the school week. We are sensitive to the individual interests of the children, which are used to support their learning across all areas of the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum.

### Understanding the world

#### People and Communities

The Reception children have the unique opportunity to experience the Key Stage 1 curriculum lessons linked to the play based Early Years curriculum. This term, children will be

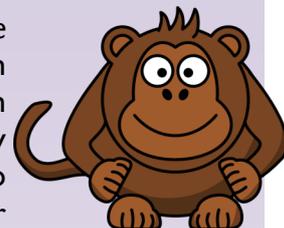
continuing to learn about Hinduism and the special ceremony of Raksha Bandhan where siblings make presents for each other and family life as a whole is celebrated. Children will have the opportunity to make Barfi and experience a role play of this special ceremony.

### Technology

Children have computers available to them to use freely throughout the day with educational programmes relating to maths, reading, expressive arts and design and writing. Within the afternoon sessions children will be given 1:1 time to learn how to use these programmes effectively. iPads, laptops, an interactive white board and programmable toys such as bee-bots will also be made available to your child with particular learning foci at the centre.

### The World

To link with our story *Little Beauty* about a gorilla, children will carry out group research about gorillas and where they come from. They will also paint pictures of gorillas for their art washing lines.



The Key stage 1 Science topic this term is *Everyday Materials* and, where relevant, this will be linked to the EYFS curriculum allowing your child to experience some of the learning opportunities of their older peers. We will work on a project to use a range of materials to build the houses of The Three Little Pigs in mixed age groups and investigate why different types of gloves are made from different materials.

### Music

The children in Class 1 will again be taught this term by Mrs Enright. We will focus on contrasting musical elements. The children will understand the importance of listening within music, with the focus on loud, quiet, high, low, smooth, jumpy, fast and slow. The children will also continue to develop rhythmic and concentration skills.

As this term we are nearing Christmas, the children will be learning a new Christmas Carol each week, using percussion instruments to keep the beat. The children will learn about pitch and tempo.

The Reception children will also be learning their very own song to perform to you at our Aladdin production at Christmas.

### Physical development

We support gross and fine motor skills development through a wide range of activities both indoors and outdoors from bikes, scooters, parachutes, den building and large painting for gross motor development to weaving, bead threading, clay and jigsaw making for fine motor development and many more.

Our physical education sessions will be as follows; swimming with Mrs Ogden at Maidwell Hall, dancing with choreographer 'Dancing Dave' and a PE lesson every Thursday afternoon with Mr Gordon.



This term Mr Gordon will be teaching a *Gymnastics* Unit in which children explore movement, stillness and using space safely. They will use basic gymnastic actions on the floor and on apparatus. Children will put together short movement phrases/sequences of 2-3 movements that they will plan and perform individually, with a partner and as part of a group.

### Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSHE)

This term we will continue to focus on the school ethos of the Five Rs of learning and we will be encouraging a 'growth mindset' in the children.

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 before assembly each day and link to the *Characteristics of Effective Learning* which are prioritised by the EYFS. We observe the children as they access the continuous provision activities to see if these characteristics are in effect. Children who are observed problem-solving, showing a growth mindset, who have exploration skills, show concentration and ability to cooperate well with others in groups take more from their learning and are qualities indicative of successful learning journeys.



### Weekly Stars

To celebrate your child's at-home achievements in school and in order to work in strong partnership with you, large card stars will be placed into your child's book bag for you to write their achievements on. These are then read out in front of the class and celebrated by putting these stars on display.

The content of the stars is up to you. It could be an area of your child's independence that you are encouraging to promote in them such as sleeping in their own bed all night, riding a bike without stabilisers or helping to tidy up.

It is also lovely to share special events that have taken place in their lives such as a trip to Legoland, a special family member visiting or holding an interesting animal at a zoo. Please write this on your child's star.

When the school *and* home environment share your child's achievements we are valuing their unique milestones and experiences together. In this way, your child will feel confident and celebrated everywhere that they go!

## Independent Dressing

Where possible at home, please encourage your child to dress and undress themselves independently, this will help them greatly before and after PE and swimming.



## Kindness Leaves



In order to encourage kindness and cooperation between class members, children are awarded with kindness leaves. These leaves (made by Reception children) have their kind deed written on them, are read out and celebrated by the whole class and hung on the kindness tree.

## PE Kits

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.

## Toys from Home

We encourage children not to bring toys or objects in from home as experience has shown that they can get lost or damaged at school and can sometimes be a distraction to the children during the school day.

It will, as you can see be a busy and fun packed term in the run-up to Christmas.

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

