

Dear Parents

Welcome to the second half of the Spring Term. We hope you had a lovely break.

We have lots of lovely activities for this term and we look forward to seeing you at the parent meetings.

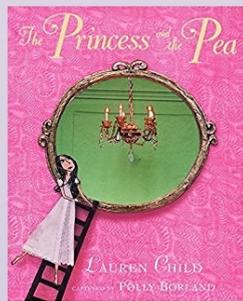
Please contact us if you have any queries regarding your child's learning using the yellow reading records which are checked every day.

Mrs Littlewood & Mrs Garley  
Class Teachers

## Communication & Language

### Literacy

This term, we are focusing on the story of *The Princess and the Pea*. The children will be told the story orally and will have the opportunity to follow our usual process of stepping, mapping and speaking an innovated version of the story themselves.



This term, we will be encouraging the children to focus on developing characters. We will use the book illustrations and the images produced by our artist Martin to develop exciting language and explore the characteristics of the characters through drama.

The children will also be following the Talk For Writing process for the story *Rumble in the Jungle*, a rhyming book about each of the animals' different characters, further embedding the idea of characterisation in stories.

Finally, the children will be learning *Funny Bones* and of course overlaying the story with their own ideas. This is the term where Reception children start to become more independent with their writing. Armed with a large proportion of the phonics scheme and of course, the key words they have been learning at home and in school, their writing

becomes more adventurous which in turn boosts their confidence as they can slowly put their amazing ideas onto paper.

If you did not manage to come and see your child's literacy lesson last term, please come along and see their 'Talk for Writing' lesson this term on: either **Wednesday 21** or **Thursday 22 March**. Both sessions run from 9.45 to 10.30am. Please let us know if you are able to attend.

### Reading

Reception children are read to everyday. They also create their own improvised stories using props. Alongside these, daily guided reading sessions allow them to share a book with their peers focussing on taking turns to answer simple comprehension questions. They focus on decoding and blending words to enable them to make progress.

Every week, your child will now be taught two new letter sounds with a song and an action to go with it. They practise the letter formation using: jumbo chinks outside, fingers on glitter or sand trays, pencils and white board pens.

Extra reading sessions have been put in place every afternoon. Children read 'Ditty sheets' which reinforce the sounds they have learnt during their phonics lessons. They will bring these sheets home so you can see what they are able to read in school.

### Writing

Reception children are given many writing and mark-making opportunities throughout the school day. Writing materials are provided in all areas of the indoor and outdoor learning environment and the children know that they are encouraged to use these during their free play.

The children work on writing a guided sentence using their writing tool-kit, focussing on making sure that their letters are sitting on the line and they are leaving finger spaces between words.

To develop a firm pencil grip please continue to work with your child and activities that work on fine motor skills such as cutting, threading, writing and drawing. They could also show you 'dough disco' if you provide them with a large piece of play dough.



## Numeracy

This term, children will continue to follow the Numicon programme to help them with their understanding of number, we will be focusing on learning:

- To find the total number of items in two or more groups by combining Numicon shapes
- To find one more on a number line and notice that when one is added to any number the result is the next number
- To add one and find one more by using Numicon shapes and patterns
- To understand that adding involves increase and start to use the language of adding
- To find one more than a given number, starting with 1- 9 and extending to 19
- To solve 'one more' problems and make up 'one more stories'

## Shape, Space and Measurement

This term children will be provided with opportunities to understand the different vocabulary associated with:

- Money
- Time
- Distance
- Weight
- Height

Each of these will be taught through fun and practical activities such as obstacle course making, role-play shops, rolling cars and measuring the distance they travel and measuring ingredients for cookery.

The children will continue to experience daily planned activities, which will enable them to access the three prime and four specific areas of the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum.

This term children will be contributing to the weekly planning process and their interests will continue to be built upon to support their understanding across all areas of the curriculum.

## Understanding the world

### People and communities

This term the children will begin a new topic on The Buddhist Way of Life where children will:

- Sculpt Buddhas out of clay and learn about the symbolism of these models
- Learn and reflect on another Buddhist story *Buddha and the Injured Swan* and acting this out to perform
- Make 'mala' beads and learn about how Buddhists use these
- Receive a visit from a member of a Buddhist community. Children will be able to ask questions and learn about Buddhist offerings and practices
- Look at the symbolism of sand mandalas and create their own
- Reflect on the unit on the last week of term

### Technology

This term the children will refer to a plan of the story type 'overcoming the monster' to create a photography project of small world people and animals. They will have help to impose their photographs onto a PowerPoint and add a narrative to join each slide.

Following on from this, we will continue with our photography stories using a variety of different story types.

Children will learn what makes an effective photograph and how to present their work on a PowerPoint to show the class. This unit will be linked to literacy and children will have the opportunity to learn about effective story language.

As usual, the children have free access to educational programmes on the classroom computers throughout the course of the school day with programmes supporting all areas of the curriculum.

### Music

In music this term we will continue to use percussion instruments to count in groups of 2, 5 and 10. Children will be recorded singing this and this will be put on a CD so that they can practice in the car!

## Physical development

Children will continue to have Mr Gordon each week for PE and their usual swimming lessons with Mrs Ogden.

The focus for this term's PE unit of work is **Creative Skills**, with a physical focus on Co-ordination and Ball Skills for the first three lessons and on Counter Balance in Pairs for the remaining three lessons. The learning goals for this unit are:

- I can begin to compare my movements and skills with those of others. I can select and link movements together to fit a theme
- I can explore and describe different movements

Children will continue to be encouraged to be as autonomous as possible with regards to self-care.

The gross motor opportunities will be as follows:

- Class parachute
- Bikes, cars and scooters
- Large rollers on large paper

Fine motor opportunities:

- Threading
- Writing and drawing
- Weaving
- Spraying with spray bottles
- Tweezers and sorting
- Light box drawing and handwriting

## Art

As usual, we will have many art experiences available to the children everyday including painting, collage, pastel, threading, printing, drawing, junk modelling and clay.

This term, the children will be making Buddhas and mala beads. They will also learn about sand mandalas and making some of their own.

## PSHE

This term we will continue to focus on the development of Growth Mindsets during assemblies. The children will engage in a variety of activities within their assembly groups which will support positivity and resilience. We will begin by creating a school set of instructions on how to be a Superlearner.



## Reception Stars

New stars will be sent home shortly in your child's book bag. Please record their at-home achievements on them. These are celebrated with their friends in class.

## Website Links

Below are links to some recommended website links that have games to support your child's maths and phonics skills at home:

- For counting objects up to 5 or 10:

<http://www.topmarks.co.uk/learning-to-count/underwater-counting>

- For blending sounds and deciphering between 'alien' and real words:

<http://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/PicnicOnPluto.html>

- For reading practice:

[http://www.literactive.com/Download/live.asp?swf=story\\_files/hanging\\_monkeys\\_US.swf](http://www.literactive.com/Download/live.asp?swf=story_files/hanging_monkeys_US.swf)

Please begin or continue to request your child's next list of key words to support them with this at home.

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

