

Dear Parents

Welcome to the new term, the summer term is a special term for Reception children because they can begin to reflect upon everything they have learnt since starting in September and support the new Reception children as they join us for their four taster sessions in the coming weeks.

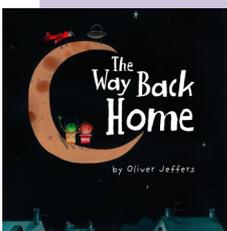
Mrs Littlewood & Mrs Garley
Class Teachers

Communication & Language

Literacy

In the first week back we will be enjoying a visit from a very special person... The 'real' Farmer Brown (from Click Clack Moo, the book we studied last term). Farmer Brown left a video message for the children of Reception where he spoke to them from his farm on the last day of term. As he was feeding the cows, he thanked the Reception children for the persuasive letters that they busily sent him and will be visiting on Monday 4th June with a little calf in tow!

The rest of the first week back will be spent independently applying everything we have learnt this year from our writing tool kits. We will write a simple newspaper report recounting Farmer Brown's visit and create cow acrostic poems independently.



This term, children will also be learning the story *The Way Back Home* by Oliver Jeffers. This story is about a boy who finds himself in space and meets an alien who he sets about helping. One of the themes of the story is that team

work is a very positive thing. The story type is 'voyage and return' and the non-fiction text

type that the children will be studying is *Explanation*.

We will look at the character type of the helper and engage in many role play and talk-based activities to help the children embed the particular language features of explanation. The artist, Martin Young will come in to school on 18th June to draw images of the children's innovation of the original story to help inspire their writing further.

The children will be told the story orally and have the opportunity follow our usual process of stepping, mapping and speaking an innovated version themselves.

Numeracy

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

- To continue developing understanding of addition and subtraction with moving forwards and backwards on a number line
- To begin to be aware of the inverse relationship between adding and subtracting
- To see and learn doubles as special combinations of two numbers
- To begin to see connections between doubling and halving
- To begin to connect finding the difference with take away

Shape, Space and Measurement

This term children will continue to be provided with opportunities to estimate, measure, weigh, compare and order objects and talk about properties, pattern, position and time. These will be taught by:

- Size ordering sea shells, creating collages of underwater scenes with ascending sized objects beneath the water

- Sorting symmetrical and non-symmetrical 2D images
- Matching 3D shapes to everyday objects
- Measuring each other by drawing around each other with chalk then measure in cubes, extended into using meter rulers
- Experimenting with capacity in the water tray using different sized containers and estimation skills
- Comparing weights of natural found objects from our nature table

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 starting to prepare for their transition to Year 1 in September so they will be given opportunities (where appropriate for them individually) to join the Key Stage 1 children for their maths activities and start to use standard measures and written representations of their understandings.

Understanding the world

People and Communities Expressive Art and Design

This term, we will be continuing our unit on *Stories in Christianity*.

Children will be:

- Hearing the story of Joseph and his Brothers following the talk for writing process of mapping and stepping the story, using the story map to write the story in their own words
- Using the recount tool kit that the class co-constructed last term, children will be writing newspaper reports about the story of Joseph and his brothers
- Mrs Elliot will be coming in to make 'Technicolor dream coats' with the children on our art day
- Children will act the story out and engage in hot seating activities to gain perspective of the points of view of the different characters
- In four groups the children will act out a chosen Bible story after reflecting on all the stories we have learnt and perform their

little plays to the rest of the class.

- In music this term, children will be learning Christian songs which tell parts of Bible stories so both subjects will work together to further embed the children's knowledge of these.
- Finally children will have an opportunity at the end of the term to reflect upon what they have learnt in this particular RE unit

In Geography the children will have opportunities to work alongside Key Stage 1 in our place knowledge work. We will be investigating the Isle of Coll which is the fictional island of Struay in the Katy Morag stories. We will use one of these stories to look at the human and physical features of the island.

The children will then have opportunities to investigate Death Valley and think about the differences between the two locations.

We will be continuing our plants topic this term. The children will work scientifically to monitor and measure their bean plants. They will also look at a range of flowers and trees and make their own information text page for a reception spotter's guide for the school library. On the Class One art day, the children will work with Mrs Elliot on a range of plant based art work.

Technology

Children will have their usual permanent access to educational games on the class computers and ipads, they will also be joining the year 1 and 2 children for their unit on research which will involve finding out about their favourite animal then creating a dialogue between two virtual puppets swapping information that they have found out, using an app called 'Puppet Pals' on the iPads.

Mrs Elliot will be joining us for an art day where the children will be making their own patchwork coats.

Glen will also be visiting for several art days this term. She will be creating murals (for the playground) which teach the children about taking care of the various systems in our bodies. The art work will then form part of an exercise circuit around the playground.

Music

This term, the children will be learning songs relating to the Bible stories they are learning about in RE such as Joseph and his technicoloured coat, Lord of the Dance and more. The children will be grouped and learn parts of the songs to be sung in different pitches and one week they will sing in a 'round'. Singing in this way will enable the children to reflect upon parts of the stories they have learnt in RE and they will also learn specific musical terms such as pitch, tempo, rhythm and harmony.

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 Unit of Work is **Health & Fitness**, with a physical focus on Agility: Ball Chasing for the first three lessons and on Static Balance: Floor work for the remaining lessons. The learning goals for this unit are:

- I can say how my body feels before, during and after exercise. I use equipment appropriately and move and land safely.
- I am aware of why exercise is important for good health.

Josh, one of our lunchtime PE teachers will be working in conjunction with Glen to teach the children about taking care of their circulatory, muscular skeletal and many more systems in the body.

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

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

Please continue to practise your child's next set of key words with them support them with their transition to year one next term.

PSHE

We will continue to focus on creating a positive/growth mindset in all of the children. We will look at people who are famous who did not achieve success in the beginning and link this to our daily failures/successes.

Please also make sure that your child has sun cream on before coming to school each day and that they bring a hat and water bottle with them.

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.

