



Year R Newsletter Spring 1 2023

Dear Parents,

We would like to welcome you and your child back after the winter break. We have an exciting year ahead of us and we look forward to continuing to work with you to support your child in their first year of school. As last term, every Friday we shall be sending out a weekly Newsletter that will help you become familiar with the daily routine, how you can support and contribute to your child's learning journey and how we will be teaching your child to read and write. Every Friday, children will be given a piece of 'homework' to promote their language development and enable them to participate more fully in class discussions. Once a week, the children will continue to have the opportunity to take home a class reading book, these books can be kept for a week and will be changed on a Friday. When a child becomes an early reader, they will start taking home a phonics reading scheme book. In addition to these books children also have access to Monster Phonics e-books at school and at home via the Monster Phonics website, and we encourage all children to access these each week as part of their home learning. Please ensure you have signed up to the website, if you need support with this, please see one of the Reception teachers.

Our Curious Question this term is 'I've learnt about other people, has the world always been this way?'. Our Curious Question will give your child plenty of opportunities to enjoy learning about the past such as dinosaurs, castles and knights. On the next page, you will be able to see the types of activities we will be undertaking and how they relate to the Early Years Foundation Stage framework and the seven areas of learning. We will also be introducing Show and Tell this half term. On a Friday, we will invite 3 children to bring in something from home to share with their peers. Show and Tell is a great activity that promotes speech and listening development, as well as the children's communication skills. This half term, we are excited to get out and about and make use of the fantastic area we go to school in. The children will be taking part in a local area walk linked to our Week 3 topic 'transport'. They will be visiting Crystal Palace Park to explore the season and the dinosaurs for our week 4 'Dinosaur' topic and in the final week the children will be visiting Ashburton Library and will have the chance to become library members. More information regarding these trips will be sent home over the coming weeks. As with all trips and visits, adult support is required so we hope some of you are able to accompany us on these occasions.

Thank you for your support,
The Reception Team

Attendance

Robin: 92% Wren: 92.4%

Target: 97.5%

Spring 1 *I've learnt about other people, has the world always been this way?*

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

During this half term we will be continuing to embed the children's skill in making relationships and in developing their self-confidence to allow the children to share their ideas, feelings and opinions confidently and to understand one another's feelings. They will continue to develop these skills and have opportunities to play alone, alongside and with other children. We will be supporting children to share resources, solve problems and understand different points of view.

Expressive Arts and Design

We will be exploring different types of creative expression as we look at the work of different artists. The children will have the opportunity to look closely at ways they can use creative resources to express themselves. The children continue to take part in weekly musical bumps lessons where they have the opportunity to sing, play musical instruments and learning about rhythm and pitch.

Understanding the World

This half term we will be introducing the iPads into our daily learning, encouraging the children to explore age-appropriate programs and apps, to develop computing skills. We will also use the computers and digital cameras. The children will continue to explore the world around them and be encouraged to explore the outdoor area. We will also be learning about people who help us and different occupations.

Mathematics

We will be encouraging children to count, recognise and order numbers to 10 in a range of practical activities. We will be introducing the children to simple addition and subtraction, and we will be exploring shapes and measures. We will sing counting songs and read number rhymes together. We will also use 2D and 3D shapes in our construction work and will encourage problem solving in real-life situations.

Communication and Language

We will continue to encourage and develop the children's skills to talk about themselves and to use good speaking and listening during our group time discussions. We will continue to use 'Talk Partners' to enable all children to participate fully. We encourage the children to speak clearly and in full sentences, developing their communication skills.

Literacy

This half term we will be introducing the children to age appropriate phonics reading books, using Monster Phonics. We encourage all children to read simple words and sentences using skills learnt in phonics. We will continue to develop our writing skills through daily writing sessions and encourage the children to write simple sentences. The children have now been put into two groups for Phonics and Write Away, both groups take part in similar daily lessons, however these groups have been created to ensure teaching supports the children's abilities more closely ensuring excellent progress continues to take place each day.

Physical Development

The children will continue to have physical opportunities daily when learning outdoors. Children will be encouraged to talk about the changes to their bodies after they have been active and will have many opportunities and challenges to develop both their fine and gross motor skills. We also have weekly P.E sessions in which the children will develop a range of skills from ball skills to movement. Fine motor skills such as pencil grip and the use of scissors continue to be an important focus in Reception, to ensure correct letter formation and a strong development of basic skills, such as cutting.

Robin Class

Teacher: Mrs Carew
Teaching Assistant: Miss Jones
1:1 support Teaching Assistant: Ms O

Wren Class

Teacher: Mrs Carew
Teaching Assistant: Miss Prosper
Teaching Assistant: Miss S