

SPRING NEWSLETTER

Reception

Dates for your diary

Parent Workshop Helping your child with Reading & Phonics	20/01/17
Parent Workshop Supporting your child with Early Maths skills	27/01/17
Chinese New Year	28/01/17
Shrove Tuesday Pancake Day	28/02/17
Valentine's Day	14/02/17
Half Term	13/02/17 – 17/02/17
Last day of Term	3/04/17

Welcome back...

Happy New Year to you all and welcome back! We will be sending homework in the form of our 'Homework Passport' along with words for your child to learn every week.

We would be very grateful if you would help your child to complete any homework to the best of their ability. Your child is also required to read everyday for 10 minutes.

Their book should then be signed.

Thank you for your continued support.

Themes and Topics

Spring 1

This term we will be looking at the story, "Rainbow Fish," and discussing how the Rainbow Fish learns to share with the other ocean creatures before moving onto non-fiction texts about under the sea creatures such as sharks and dolphins. We will also be looking at the seasons of Winter and Spring and the changes that happen during this time of year.



Things To Do At Home

Talk to your child about the importance of sharing and being a kind friend.

Spring 2

After the half-term break we will be focusing on mini beasts with our literacy linked to "The Very Hungry Caterpillar," book by Eric Carle and providing further learning experiences based on Eric Carle's books and mini beasts.



Things To Do At Home

Explore your outside environment and look for signs of spring and mini beasts. Take photos and talk about the changes you see.

The Foundation Stage Curriculum

Throughout the Early Years Foundation Stage staff assess each child's development in relation to the Early Learning Goals and the steps towards them. These assessments are made by accumulating observations and knowledge of the whole child, and through discussion with parents. At the end of the Reception the EYFS Profile is produced to sum up that knowledge. There are seven areas of learning and development, all of which are important and inter-connected. The **prime** areas, are crucial for building children's capacity to learn, form relationships and thrive. These run through and support the **specific** areas, which develop essential skills and knowledge.

Prime Areas

- **Personal, Social and Emotional Development**
- **Physical development**
- **Communication and Language**



Specific Areas

- **Literacy**
- **Mathematics**
- **Understanding the World**
- **Expressive Arts and Design**



Communication and Language

Speaking- 'Chatting With Your Child'

Communication is vital for how young children develop their powers of thinking and understanding. It forms the foundations for our interactions with other people, communicating our needs, thoughts and experiences. *'Language learning makes the biggest difference to how well children go on to achieve'* (Every Child a Talker National Strategies). A child's ability to develop language depends on being surrounded by an environment rich in words, sounds, rhythm and verbal expression.

Here are some suggestions to help your child with language development;

- *Find time to talk to your child and be interested in what they are doing*
- *Model language and talk, describe what you are doing or how you are feeling*
- *Share the day's news and talk about what will happen tomorrow or at the weekend*
- *Talk during the journey to and from school, discussing what you see on the way*
- *When watching television, talk about the characters in the programmes. Ask your child to guess **what will happen next***
- *Look at family photos and photos of themselves and talk about who they can see and what they can remember*

Listening- 'Helping Your Child to Listen'

Listening is an important skill that needs to be developed. A very young child can only attend to what you say to them if they stop what they are doing and turn to listen. Their brain has not yet developed the capacity to concentrate on listening and doing at the same time. As they get older children need to develop active listening and attention skills in order to recall information and respond to what they have heard. In today's busy world children are surrounded by background noise and sometimes find it hard to listen and hold on to what they hear.

Here are some suggestions to help your child develop their listening skills;

- *Encourage your child to follow your instructions e.g. fetch the paper and close the door*
- *Help them to 'tune in' to sounds. Identify sounds around the house, such as the doorbell, washing machine, dripping tap, fridge door etc... Can your child name the sounds?*
- *Identify sounds when outside like traffic noises, animal or bird sounds, footsteps etc...*
- *Sing action songs and games e.g. Old MacDonald had a farm, Simon says... etc...*
- *Play listening and memory games such as Chinese Whispers or 'I went to the shops ...'*

Early Reading

Reading skills

As your child begins to learn phonics and the skill of blending letter sounds they will move onto books with words. They will also bring home high frequency words that have to be learned from memory. These words do not follow the conventions of phonics but are important for developing fluency in reading. Short regular practise of ten minutes every day keeps learning new skills fun.

Reading for Fun

As parents and teachers it is important that we encourage children to develop a love of reading. Here are some suggestions to help your child develop their reading skills;

- Visit the library and choose books together
- Pause part way through the book and ask what could happen next
- Run your finger along the words as you read
- Search for letters and words that they recognise
- When you have finished the story, ask them to retell it to you
- Discuss their favourite parts of the story



Mathematics

Mathematics is an essential part of everyday life. In Foundation Stage children develop understanding of the key concepts that will be used in mathematics. This includes;

- Saying number names in order from 1 to 20
- Recognising numbers from 1 to 20 and putting them in order
- Developing counting strategies such as touching each object and saying the number

Children need to develop their basic skills so that they can apply them to solving problems such as addition and subtraction.

Here are some suggestions to help your child develop their number skills;

- *Sing number rhymes and songs, read number stories, play counting games*
- *Recite the number names in order forwards and backwards*
- *Look for numbers in the environment such on doors or telephones*
- *Use everyday opportunities to count - number of stairs, plates on the table etc..*



Writing - 'Good Pencil Control'

Before children begin writing, they need opportunities to develop the control of small movements e.g. turning on the tap, doing up buttons or fitting jigsaw pieces together. These activities help to build muscle memory and co-ordination of fine movements which



Tripod Grip

lead to good pencil control. Children will start to learn to write their name one letter at a time, where they will be taught the correct formation of each letter. This means a capital letter to start followed by lower case letters. Please avoid using block capitals as it is often more difficult to re-teach the correct formation once your child has learnt to write using capital letters.

British Values

We are also required to teach the children about British Values which are: **Democracy, The rule of Law, Mutual Respect and Tolerance and Individual Liberty.**

Here are some of the ways we teach your children about these values.

- Celebrating and marking British occasions and festivals Teaching children to listen to each other and wait before speaking, how to have a conversation
- Kindness, helpful, respectful of others
- Table manners
- Learning about our heritage and history
- Being polite, saying please and thank you
- Listening during story and song time
- Teaching empathy and understanding
- Appropriate behaviour and learning right from wrong
- Taking turns and sharing
- Learning British weather and seasons
- Being part of local community through outings and partnerships with local schools, nurseries etc
- Making friends and friendship
- Toleration of others and mutual respect