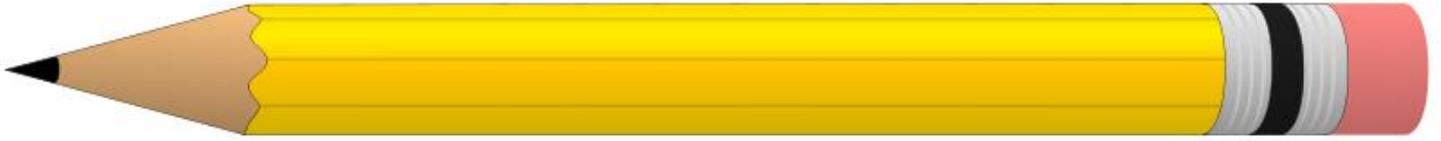


Early Years Newsletter Spring 2022



Happy New Year and welcome back to the Spring term. We'd like to send a warm welcome to our new children and their families who have joined us in Nursery; we're so pleased to have you with us. The following newsletter will highlight everything you need to know for the Spring term.

Our new topic for this half-term is called 'Once Upon a Time!' We will be learning all about traditional tales and answering the question, 'What makes a good story?' We will start with sharing the story of 'Goldilocks and the three bears' and move onto 'The Three Little Pigs' and 'Jack and the Beanstalk' amongst others.

We will also be investigating the changing seasons now that we are in Winter, and this will form the basis for some seasonal artwork.

We love to involve the children in their own learning so as part of our homework for this half-term we would like you to discuss the topic with your child and then let us know about any learning or questions that they would like to know the answer to.

Outdoor Play

We use our wonderful outdoor area in all weather so children need to have suitable clothing as we encourage outdoor learning daily. Please make sure that your child has a warm coat and a pair of wellington boots to keep in school. We provide waterproofs for the children to wear.

Ways to be involved this year:

We would like all our families to be as involved in our learning as possible. We send regular updates on ClassDojo and children's learning will be recorded on Tapestry. We would really like for you to share with us those special family moments and times when your child is applying their learning at home. These can be sent via Tapestry or uploaded to the portfolio on ClassDojo.

If you need any help accessing ClassDojo or Tapestry, please ask a member of staff.

Morning toast

Every child is offered a slice of toast each morning. This is not breakfast but helps fill that 'hungry' gap before snack time and is a nice way for children to settle in a morning. We do ask for a contribution of £1 per week for each child and this is paid online using our SchoolMoney system as we are a cashless school (this is also how you pay for school trips or other events in school). This contribution also enables us to buy other snacks, cooking ingredients, fresh playdough and role play resources.

Milk and snack

Every morning each child is offered a carton of fresh milk and a piece of fruit. The fresh milk will be free until your child is 5 and then you will be sent details of how to pay directly through our milk supplier (Cool Milk). The fruit is provided for free through a nationwide scheme. Your child does not need to bring their own snack into school but if they do it must be a healthy snack.

Water

Please provide your child with a clearly named water bottle. Packed lunches should also contain a drink.

Toys

We ask that children do not bring toys into school; we would hate for belongings to be lost or damaged and we have plenty of toys for them to enjoy!

Uniform

School Uniform is worn by both Reception and Nursery children. ALL items of uniform should be labelled with your child's name please. More information can be found on the school website or in the EYFS guide to starting school.

PE

All children in Nursery and Reception will take part in PE every Tuesday morning. On this day, your child needs to come into school in their PE kit which is a plain white t-shirt, black shorts/ black or navy joggers and a black sweatshirt (not a hoody), no logos or stripes please. Your child will need to wear black trainers. Please name all items.

Reading and phonics

All children in Nursery and Reception bring home a 'Love to Read book' from our school library. This is a book that your child has chosen for you to enjoy together. Your child is NOT expected to read this independently - it is a book to share with an adult to develop a love of books, listening and language. Read it to or with them. Discuss the pictures, enjoy the story, predict what might happen next, use different voices for the characters, explore the facts in a non-fiction book. The main thing is that you have fun and enjoy this time together! 'Love to Read' books will be changed on Monday.

Children in Reception will continue to bring home a phonics reading book. They will have already read this book in school; this familiarity allows the children to become confident and fluent readers. The books have questions in the back that you can ask your child to help develop their reading comprehension - understanding what they have read. Phonics reading books will be changed on a Thursday. Please sign your child's reading diary each time they read at home so that they can collect stickers on their bookmark.

Please send you child's reading book and diary to school daily.

We are continuing to follow the 'Little Wandle' phonics programme to teach reading and spelling in Reception. This half term, the children will be continuing to learn more digraphs (two letters that make one sound), read longer sentences and learn the next set of tricky words. We will continue to send home phonics overview sheets on a Friday; please practice these with children regularly as practice does make perfect. This can also count towards collecting bookmark stickers. There are videos on our class webpage if you need any help with pronunciation of the different sounds.

Children in Nursery also have daily phonics sessions which focus on developing phonological awareness by singing songs, listening to sounds and exploring rhyme and alliteration. The older children in Nursery will also be learning to identify initial sounds of words and to distinguish between sounds as well as blending words together that have been sounded out.

Homework

Homework is set on a half-termly basis; we provide a number of tasks to complete that are linked to our learning in school. We make these enjoyable things to do together with your child. Please ensure that homework books are bought into school each Wednesday - this is to allow us to take a look at any tasks completed and share it with the rest of class. Books will be returned by the end of the week. Homework can also be uploaded onto ClassDojo portfolio or onto Tapestry. Children will receive ClassDojo points for each task completed.

Knowledge organisers

Our knowledge organisers summarise the learning that will take place each half term or topic. They include the key knowledge and vocabulary that we want our children to learn. They also show the key books that we will be looking at and the enrichment opportunities linked to the topic, ie., trips, visitors or special events.

The organisers can be used at home in the following ways: as conversation starters with your child, to support children to explore their own interests relating to the topic, visit your local library, museums, and trips to explore the topic and learn the specific vocabulary and its meaning.

School Meals

Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 receive universal free school meals. If you would like a copy of the menu, please ask or collect a menu from the main office. Children in Nursery with 30 hours funding have to pay for meals. You can claim free school meals if you receive certain benefits, and we suggest that you make a claim even if your child has universal free school meals as the school receives extra funding. Phone 03001235012 for further information and help.

Finally, as always, if you have any questions please do not hesitate to speak (or send a Dojo message) to any member of the Early Years Team.

Mrs Turner, Mrs Callas, Mrs Bird, Miss Foster and
Miss Alcott