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## Early Years Spring Term Newsletter



Dear Parents and Carers

### **Happy New Year**

Welcome back to school for the Spring Term. We hope you all enjoyed the Christmas and New Year holiday. Thank you to everyone for their kind messages, Christmas cards and gifts, and for everything you do to make sure your children are prepared for their time in Early Years. Your support is very important and we all really appreciate it.

### **Routines**

Our regular weekly activities will be as follows:

**Tuesday – PE** (PE is now at 10am so the children will change into their PE kit at school and change back into their uniform after PE. PE kits need to come to school at the start of the half term and remain in school until the end of the half term)

**Thursday – Forest Schools** (Please continue to come dressed for a morning in the forest. Please send a named carrier bag to put wet forest clothes in)

**Friday – Library** (Children will be able to borrow a book from the school library. Please send the book back the following Friday. The children will not be able to borrow a new book without bringing their current book back)

The children have come well equipped so far, so keep up the good work.



Most children will continue to change their reading books twice a week. Please read with your child as often as possible – getting into a daily routine is useful for both you and your children and regular reading is part of our school homework policy. 5 minutes a day is fine and you may read a whole book or just a couple of pages. When you have read write the title of the book you have shared, plus a comment and either ‘keep’ or ‘ready to change’ in their planners. If there is no comment we will assume that you want to keep the book until the next change day. Please make sure reading books and planners are in book bags and brought to school **every day**.

The children are making excellent progress in phonics and your support is crucial in this. Please continue to practice playing I spy, making up rhymes and blending sounds to read words, as well as having fun talking about books and stories, and making sure that the children read for enjoyment. Remember: understanding is vital to enjoyment and to becoming a successful reader.

## **Independence**

We love the way the children are becoming more independent. In the mornings, please encourage them to be independent with the jobs they have to do on arrival. This helps massively with the children's confidence when they have to get ready themselves at the end of the day. You may feel you no longer need to come into the classroom every day. If your child is ready, feel free to say goodbye at the door, but remember that you are most welcome to come into the classroom to look at displays and talk to staff.



## **Learning**

This term we will continue to follow the children's interests and we will be teaching and extending their learning through their play. Our Talk4Writing book will be Mr Gumpy's Outing. We are hoping to visit the National Railway Museum at some point this half term – more details to follow.

In our phonics this half term, we will be consolidating the sounds we have learnt so far, introducing some digraphs (two letters that make one sound – e.g. ch, sh, th, ng) and continuing to practise blending (putting sounds together – c-a-t = cat, and segmenting – splitting words up into their sounds – dog = d-o-g). Please continue to support your child by helping them to 'tune in' to sounds by playing games such as I spy, listening to and making up rhymes and orally blending and segmenting.

## **Observations**

We will be continuing our focus observations - choosing three children each week who we will spend more time working with and observing. You will be sent a letter telling you that your child will be observed the following week. This letter will give you more details about the process and how you can help. There will also be an opportunity to come into school to meet staff and discuss progress.

If you wish to talk to staff about your child outside of their observation week, please make an appointment for a mutually convenient time.

## **Other important dates**

Monday 8 Jan	Inset day – no children in school
Tuesday 9 Jan	School starts
Friday 26 Jan	PTA curry and quiz night – adults only (more details to follow)
Friday 9 Feb	School closes for half term
Monday 19 Feb	School starts for second half of spring term

## **And Finally!**

May we remind you to regularly check our Facebook page and Twitter feed to see what is happening in school. You will also see photographs of some of the activities we do in Early Years. You can also keep up to date with what your child is doing via Tapestry. Please continue to upload photographs and observations of what your child is doing at home.

Once again, many thanks for your support. We are all excited about working with the children this term and know they will make lots of progress.

Finally, if you have any questions or comments about your child's progress, please speak to one of the team, write a note in the planner or email [rachel.carr@york.gov.uk](mailto:rachel.carr@york.gov.uk).

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