



Early Years Newsletter – Spring Term 2

Welcome to the second half of the Spring term – we hope that you have had a restful half term break.

We can hardly believe we are half way through the year. We are continuing to encourage independence, particularly in regard to the children looking after their own belongings.

Please continue to encourage your child to come in, hang coats up, put book bags in the correct box (there are 4 different ones – they know which one is theirs) and put their water bottles away by themselves. We know they have a lot of things to manage, but they need to be able to do this themselves so that they know what they have in school and can organise themselves at the end of the day.

The children are making excellent progress with their reading – thank you for your support at home with this. It is clear the time spent reading with the children. Please remember to write in the planner the title of the book and how the children managed with their reading. When they get into Year 1, the routine is that books are changed **only** if there is a note in the planner.

We have now begun the second cycle of focussed observations. They work in the same way as before. You will receive a letter telling you that your child is one of the focussed children. Please add any interests or activities to Tapestry during your child's focus week – although you may add photos and observations at any time. You will also have the opportunity of coming for a short meeting with one of the teachers the week after the observations to discuss your child's progress. If you wish to talk about your child at any other time, please make an appointment with a member of staff. Please continue to look at Tapestry with your child – many parents have told us how useful it is to look at together as it encourages the children to talk about what they do at school.



This half term we will continue to learn about numbers to 20 – counting, reading, writing and ordering them. We will use Numicon and other resources to add and subtract small numbers. We will encourage the children to use these skills in their play. We will also learn about shapes and about measuring - using language such as full, empty, heavy, light, longer and shorter. Please continue to play Bond Builder on the Numbergym website.

In phonics, we will learn more phonemes (ai, ee, igh, oa, oo and or). We will continue to use our phonics to read and write simple words and sentences. We will also continue to learn to read and write tricky words (I, the, to, he, we, me, she, my, you, was, no, go, are, her, they). We will also be focussing more on letter formation and teaching the children how to form each letter clearly and correctly. We follow a programme which groups the letters into ladder letters (l, i, t, y, u, j), curly caterpillar letters (c, o, a, d, g, q, e, s, f), one armed robot letters (r, p, h, k, b, n, m) and zig-zag monster letters (w, z, x, v). Please continue to use the games on teachyourmonstertoread.com - if you feel like the games are getting too difficult, let us know and we can reset the game.



Our 'Talk4writing' book for this half term is The Little Red Hen. We will learn the story using a story plan and explore the story through small world and role play. We will learn to write sentences about the different animals and try to build up stamina when writing so we can have a go at writing the whole story.

We will use our kitchen area to cook noodles for Chinese New Year, bake bread and make chocolate nests in the run up to Easter.

PE will continue to be on Tuesday (PE kits should be in school all the time) and forest schools will continue to be on a Thursday. Please continue to dress your child appropriately for a morning in the forest. They will still need wellies and waterproofs and at times may need a hat and gloves, but as the weather improves, they may need fewer layers or a thinner waterproof. Don't forget plastic bags for dirty waterproofs. Please make sure your child has everything they need for the activities at school – they get very upset when they do not have what they need. This includes having their book bag with planner and reading book in every day so they are ready for their reading group, as well as PE kits and forest clothes on the appropriate days.

Finally, please come and speak to us if you have any questions or concerns. Many thanks for your continuing support.

Rachel Carr

Julia Jones

Ann Bradley

Dates for your diary

Friday 16th March Early Years' class assembly for the whole school and parents/carers in the school hall at 2.40pm. Please come and join us.

Friday 23rd March End of Spring Term

Monday 9th April Start of the Summer Term

