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## Early Years Spring Term Newsletter



If your child is 5 and you wish them to continue having milk each day, you will need to register at [www.coolmilk.com](http://www.coolmilk.com)

### 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:

**Thursday – Forest Schools** Please continue to send forest clothes in a named bag ready for an afternoon outside. As the colder weather looks to be arriving, please ensure your child has extra layers, thick clothing and socks and hats and gloves. We aim to go out whatever the weather so it is vital that the children are warm.

**Friday – PE** Please ensure PE kit is in school at all times. If you found any items of PE kit that do not belong to your child over the Christmas break, please send it back to school so we can reunite it with its owner!

**Friday – Library** Please continue to send library books in on a Friday, so your child can choose a new one.



We will continue with our reading groups each day. Your child will bring home a book after their reading session to practise at home.

This half term, each child will have two reading group sessions a week. They may keep the same book for both sessions to increase confidence and practise the words in the book. At other times they may get a new book at each session.

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. As mentioned at the reading meeting, the books are very short and simple and designed to teach children the mechanics of reading.

They may begin to memorise the books they have – this is fine and gives them confidence, but do draw attention to the individual words in the books too. Also continue to enjoy reading books to your child.

This is particularly helpful for the children to help develop their understanding of stories and their familiarity with story language. 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 really helping 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**

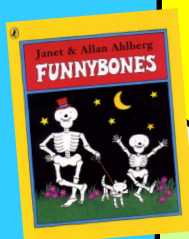
We love the way the children are becoming more independent. In the mornings, please encourage them to be independent with the jobs they have to do on arrival. This helps massively with the children's confidence when they have to get ready themselves at the end of the day. You may feel you no longer need 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 settle your child and to 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. We are looking forward to the installation of the fence around our outdoor area which will hopefully be completed after half term.

We will continue to tell our stories and act them out on a daily basis. The children enjoy the opportunity to tell their stories and we have already written 6 each! We will also enjoy listening to and learning about other stories, beginning with 'Funny Bones' by Janet and Allan Ahlberg.



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. ai, ee, or, 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.

In maths we will continue to learn about numbers, exploring how they are made and practising counting lots of different things. We particularly enjoy watching 'Numberblocks' on CBeebies which reinforces our mathematical understanding.



## **Observations**

We have begun our second round of observations of 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. There will also be another opportunity to come into school to meet staff and discuss progress.

## **Balance Bike Training**

From Monday 14th January, the children will have a weekly balance bike training session for four weeks. This is being provided for free by 'Bikeability'. This will be a wonderful opportunity to develop large motor skills, improve balance and have lots of fun together - even for those children who can already ride a bike.



## **Other important dates**

Monday 14 Jan—Monday 4 Feb

Balance bike sessions start for 4 weeks

Friday 25 Jan

PTA bingo night (more details to follow)

Thursday 21 Feb

School closes for half term

Friday 22 Feb

No children at school. Parent interview day for Year 2-6.

Monday 4 Mar

School starts for second half of the spring term

## **Mrs Bradley**

Mrs Bradley will not be in school this half term. She is going in to hospital for a small procedure. We wish her a speedy recovery and look forward to her return in around 6 weeks.