

Early Years Spring 2 Term Newsletter



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Welcome Back

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 and put book bags in the correct box. If you feel your child is ready, you may wish to say ‘goodbye’ at the classroom door.

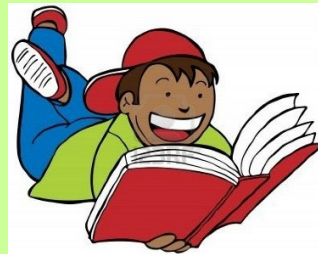
Routines

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 weather is unpredictable, please ensure your child has extra layers, thick clothing, socks, hats and gloves. If the forecast is for a warmer day, please continue to send layers and waterproof clothing as this allows children the freedom to explore without the worry they will get their uniform dirty.

Friday – PE Please ensure PE kit is in school at all times. Please check the lost property box (by the door as you come in to the cloakroom) if you have any missing items.

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 continue to have two reading group sessions a week—and at times may have three. They may keep the same book for these 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 other 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**.

Phonics

We have almost learnt all the sounds we are required to learn in Early Years as well as the common exception words (words you cannot blend e.g. the, to, I). Please continue to practise recognising these sounds and words using the flashcards that are in your child's book bag. Continue to play I spy, make up rhymes and blend sounds to read words, as well as having fun talking about books and stories. Reading to your child is important for modelling how to be a successful reader, encouraging and developing understanding and nurturing a love of reading.

Teaching Student

Miss Sally Fawcett will be completing her second teaching placement with us over this half term. Sally is in her second year of a three year teaching course at York St John College. Over the next six weeks, she will be planning, preparing and teaching the children under the guidance of Mrs Carr.

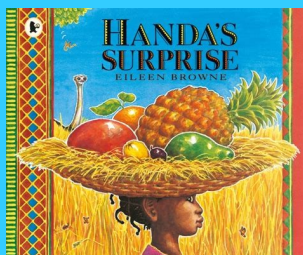
Mrs Bradley

Mrs Bradley has begun a phased return to work following her 6 weeks off. This will continue for two more weeks when she will then return to full time. We are pleased to have her back and she says thank you for the good wishes, card and flowers.

Learning

This term we will continue to follow the children's interests and we will be teaching and extending their learning through their play. The installation of the fence around the Early Years/Phase 1 outdoor area has been delayed and is now scheduled for just after Easter.

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 enthusiasm is as high as ever. We also enjoy listening and joining in with many other stories on a daily basis. This half term we will begin with the story 'Handa's Surprise'.



In our phonics this half term we will be learning the remaining sounds—qu, oi, ou, ue, er, ar, air, ear, ure as well as consolidating all sounds taught so far. We will continue to play games to help tune in to the sounds in the words and use these skills to read and write. We will also learn the common exception words she, we, me, be, my and you as well as practising the common exception words we have already learnt—I, to, the, no go, was and he.

In maths we will learn about the teens numbers—learning that they are made of one ten and a few more. We will also explore shapes and simple ways of measuring.



Observations

We have almost completed our second round of observations. Once we have finished this round, we will begin our final round of observations. Please continue to add your comments and photos to Tapestry—all your comments can be used as part of our end of year assessments.

World Book Day—Thursday 7th March

On World Book Day we take part in a number of activities as a school:

- Your child may come to school dressed as a character from a book
- They may also bring in their favourite book from home (with names in please) and we will try and read as many as we can
- Book in a Box (or jar) - your child may wish to create a book or jar depicting a book
- Whole school 'Book Factor' assembly
- Your child will receive a World Book Day Voucher to either use to get a special World Book Day book, or use a s £1 off any other book

Other important dates

Thursday 7th March

World Book Day

Wednesday 13th March

Teddy Bear's Hospital visit to EY

Friday 22nd March

Adults only Quiz and Curry night—tickets available at the office

Thursday 28th March

2.40pm—EY class assembly for parents in the hall

Friday 12th April

School closes for Easter

As always, if you have any questions about your child and their learning, please speak to Mrs Carr.