

Early Years Spring Term Newsletter



Reading

We will continue with our reading groups each day. Your child will bring home a book after their reading session to practise at home. One of the biggest things to impact a child's reading development and progress is how often they read at home. We read regularly with the children at school, but those children who regularly practise at home make significantly more progress than those who don't.

Please read with your child as often as possible – getting into a daily routine is useful for both you and your child 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. The envelopes in the book can be used to support the recognition of individual words. Pick a word out and ask your child to read it then find it in their book. Please keep envelopes inside the reading book so it is returned to school when books are changed.

Also continue to enjoy reading other story books to your child. This is particularly helpful for the children to help develop their understanding of stories, a love of books, and their familiarity with story language and other new words. Please make sure reading books, envelopes of words and planners are in book bags and brought to school **every day**. Please sign or tick the planner each time your child reads.

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 or Thursday – Library Please continue to send library books in on your child's library day, so they can choose a new one.

Wednesday – Forest Schools Please continue to send forest clothes in a named bag ready for an afternoon outside. As the colder weather looks to be continuing, please ensure your child has extra layers, thick clothing, socks, 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!

Observations and

Tapestry

We have just finished our first round of observations. We will begin the second round after half term. You will be sent a letter telling you that your child will be observed during the week. There will also be another opportunity to come into school to meet staff and discuss progress.

In the meantime, please continue to look at Tapestry to see what the children are doing in school. Please also add photographs and comments of things your child can do at home. We are able to use this evidence when we assess the children at the end of the year.



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 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 4 each! We will also enjoy listening to and learning about other stories, beginning with 'Supertato' by Sue Hendra

In our phonics this half term, we will be consolidating the sounds we have learnt so far, introducing some more 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.

Cooking We would like to give the children regular opportunities to cook. Can we ask for a £2 donation for the ingredients we need to buy? Please send the money in a named envelope. Thank you.

Teddy Bear Hospital Visit

On Wednesday 5th February (in the afternoon), we will be having a visit from the Teddy Bear Hospital. This is a session run by medical students at York University. They provide a number of activities that help children learn about healthy eating and the importance of exercise, the parts of the body, washing hands and how to fight illness. The children are encouraged to bring a teddy bear from home to the session where any teddy bear illnesses can be diagnosed and treated!



Phase 1 Maths Morning

On Thursday 16th January, we will be holding a maths meeting for parents and carers of children in Phase 1 (Early Years and Year 1). We will begin with a short meeting in the hall, where I will explain what the children are taught in maths in Phase 1. There will then be an opportunity to see a maths lesson in your child's classroom. The morning will finish by 10.00am. We hope many of you will be able to attend and that you will find the morning useful.



Other important dates

Every Friday

The library is open straight after school every Week till 4pm to browse and borrow books

Thursday 16th January

Phase 1 maths morning

Wednesday 5th February

Visit from the Teddy bear Hospital

WB 10th February

STEM week—the whole school will be involved in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths) activities

Friday 14th February

School closes for half term

Monday 24th February

School starts for second half of the spring term