

Early Years Summer Newsletter



Welcome Back

What a year – as we are entering the final 7 weeks of the year, we want to celebrate all that the children have managed to achieve in such a strange first year in school. Despite the period of isolation and almost a term of lockdown and home schooling, the children have made amazing progress and coped amazingly well with all the changes. Thank you for all your support over this last year – we are looking forward to enjoying our final half term together.

Outdoor Area



In the last couple of weeks of the last half term, we were able to remove the cones from the outdoor area and use the whole area, sharing the space with the children in Year 1. It was great to have more space, play with different children and explore some new resources. Over the half term holiday, the willow den we ordered has arrived. We are looking forward to putting it to good use.

Routines

Our regular weekly activities are as follows:



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

Thursday – Forest Schools Please continue to send children in their forest clothes on a Thursday morning with their shoes etc in a named carrier bag. As the weather gets warmer, you may need to consider what your child wears in the forest. We find it is better if the children wear clothing that covers their arms and legs so that they are free to climb and explore without worrying about getting dirty. Thin waterproof trousers and coats, or joggers are useful as the weather gets warmer. Trainers can also be worn instead of wellies if the weather has been good.



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 half term break, please send it back to school so we can reunite it with its owner! Please leave PE kit at school for the half term – we had a few children without their kit on some Fridays last half term because they had taken it home.

Observations and Tapestry

We have almost completed our second round of observations. We will continue to use Tapestry to record significant moments in the children's learning and experiences until the end of the year. At the end of the year, there will be an opportunity for you to download your child's learning journey – please be aware that due to the strange year we have had, there are fewer observations than there would normally be.



End of Year Assessments

As mentioned in the last Newsletter, we will be making assessments against National Expectations – called Early Learning Goals. This information will purely be for the school's use – to inform both you as parents/carers and the Year 1 team. You will receive this information in your child's end of year report in July. Due to the unsettled nature of the year, there may be some areas where children do not meet the end of year expectations in some areas. Any areas not met will be revisited at the start of year 1. If you have any questions about the process or about your child's assessments, please speak to Mrs Carr.

Reading

Please continue to 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.

Many of you have commented that your child quickly memorises their book – this is fine and gives the children confidence, helps develop fluency and helps with understanding. The following tips will help ensure your child is practising key skills as they read:

- Make sure your child points to each word as they read – they should only say the word they are pointing at.
- Encourage them to blend the words they do not know (blending is saying the sounds then pushing them together to blend e.g. r-ai-n = rain). There is no need for them to blend words they recognise.
- Encourage your child to read common exception words as a whole – these are words you can't blend because the letters don't make the usual sounds (E.g. the, I, to etc).
- Ask your child to find words or digraphs that repeat throughout the book.
- Talk about what is happening in the book to help your child understand what is happening.

Please ensure reading books are sent to school every day, along with your child's planner – the day your child gets a new book can vary from week to week and often books are passed on to another group so a full set in school is vital. It is normal for children to move around the reading groups they work in as they all develop skills at different rates. This sometimes means they revisit a book they have read before.

Please 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. It also provides them with a role model for how to become a successful reader.



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 love the opportunity to tell their stories! We will also enjoy listening to other stories, many of which will be focussed around the mini-theme of journeys and holidays.

We have learnt all the sounds we need to learn in Early Years, so we will be practising reading and writing sentences using the sounds and common exception words we know. We will also be learning a few more common exception words.

ai	ay	a-e	ee	ea	ie
oa	ow	o-e	ue	u-e	er
or	au	al	oi	oy	ou



In maths we be investigating how numbers work, particularly through doubling, halving and exploring odd and even numbers. We will also learn about measuring length, capacity and mass.

We will also continue with our daily 'Dough Disco' and 'Squiggle' sessions. Both these sessions help develop strength and coordination in preparation for writing. In Dough Disco, we manipulate a ball of dough to music, strengthening each finger (on both hands) in turn and together. In 'Squiggle' we practice large movements to music before recording these 'dances' on a sheet with pens then learning how to link the movements to forming each letter.



Homework

We will be sending out a new Homework menu. All activities are optional and there is no expectation to record anything. Pictures can be uploaded onto Tapestry. As previously, the priority with homework is to read regularly with your child.

Sports Morning

Each year, we have various summer events. Due to COVID, we have had to review many of these events. We will be having a sports morning on Wednesday 23rd June (more details will be sent before the event) The children will be involved in various group activities throughout the morning. Unfortunately, we cannot have parents at this event.

We have had a race track marked on the grass. They children will have the opportunity to do some simple races during one of our Friday PE sessions with Mr Holmes.

Transition

As we begin to look towards the end of the year, we will be busy preparing the children for their move to Year 1. There will be a number of things that we will do to prepare the children for September including:

- Whole class sessions on changes and what we can look forward to
- Opportunities to visit the year 1 classroom and work with the staff while the Reception children for next year visit school (you will be informed of the dates and details nearer the time)
- Two whole school transition mornings where the children visit their new classrooms with their new teachers and teaching assistants
- A transition booklet to look at together over the holidays will be sent home by the end of term
- A meeting for parents (probably via Zoom) so that you can meet the Y1 staff. The staff will explain the similarities and differences between EY and Y1 and there will be an opportunity to ask questions
- Staff from both year groups will meet to discuss the children

Dates for this Term

Monday 7 th June	School reopens
Monday 21 st June	Whole school outdoor week – all our learning is based outdoors for the week
Wednesday 23 rd June	Sports morning
Friday 16 th July	Reports will be sent home
Wednesday 21 st July & Thursday 22 nd July	Children will visit Y1 for the morning
Friday 23 rd July	School finishes for the summer



More details for the above will be sent nearer the time.

As usual, if you have any questions, please speak to Mrs Carr or email (please note the new email address) rcarr@lordderamores.com

Best wishes

The Early Years Team