



Reception class newsletter

April 2016

Coming up in the Summer term ...

Learning

As well as learning through their own self-chosen activities, the children will be:

- learning to read and write longer words, including those with two consonants together e.g. *flat*, *went* and compound words e.g. *sunset*, as well as further 'tricky words'
- continuing to develop their sentence writing in different contexts.
- continuing our exploration of shapes, patterns and numbers in different contexts, including recognising numbers to 100 and adding and subtracting one-digit and two-digit numbers.
- taking part in open-ended role-play, and acting out familiar stories.
- exploring drawing and mark making with different media such as pastels, chalk and paint.
- building larger constructions and dens as well as using a wide range of construction materials.
- learning in R.E. – that everyone has good news to share; about the celebration of the Good News of Jesus at Pentecost; that we can make friends; that Jesus had good friends and what he tells us about friendship; what we love and wonder about our world; that God gave us this wonderful world.
- taking turns to bring in items from home for 'show & tell'.
- working individually or in small groups with an adult on targeted areas of development.

Topics

Our topics this term are 'Good News', 'Friends' and 'Our World'. We will use the exploration of these themes to practise the new skills taught above. In particular, we will think about:

- how we are getting better at things
- how we can get along with others
- animals and habitats
- planting seeds and gardening
- life in other countries and holidays

This term we will also be learning about spring, jungle animals, farmyard animals, occupations and the seaside.

We will also encourage the children to follow other themes based on their own particular interests.

Skills

Through these activities and topics, the children will develop the following skills (amongst others):

- describing themselves in positive terms and talking about their abilities
- explaining own knowledge and understanding, and asking appropriate questions of others
- travelling with confidence and skill around, under, over and through balancing and climbing equipment
- showing understanding of the need for safety when tackling new challenges
- using language to imagine and recreate roles and experiences in play situations
- beginning to read and write letters, words, names and sentences
- recognising and ordering numbers, counting objects, naming shapes and noticing patterns

- noticing differences in relation to people, places, objects and materials
- representing their ideas through art and design

How can parents help?

'Wow!' sheet

This is for you to comment on recent developments you have noticed at home – things that made you think 'Wow, I didn't know you could do that!' We will send a copy of this home every half-term, but there are spares available on the noticeboard for you to complete as often as you would like.

Library, Reading and Communication books

Thank you for writing comments in your child's communication book about their enjoyment (or otherwise) of their library book and when a reading book needs changing. Please make sure that library books are in bags on Mondays. Reading books are changed at different times each week, so it is preferable to bring these every day including a comment or a signature when the children are ready for a new book. Please also keep us updated with any particular interests that your child currently has, as we may be able to incorporate this into their work here.

P.E. and outdoor play

P.E. lessons will take place on Wednesday afternoons, so please could you make sure that your child's earrings have been removed and that their P.E. kit is in school. During this term we will start to use the field for P.E. (weather permitting), so please could the children have plimsolls or trainers in their P.E. kit.

Sunny Weather

When the weather is hot, please ensure that your child brings in a named sunhat and is wearing sun cream. We are unable to apply sun cream at school, so you may want to use a brand that lasts for the whole day. Also please send your child with a named bottle containing water for use during play at lunchtime. We will still be providing water at all other times.

Attendance & Punctuality

The teaching this term is much more structured than previously, partly so that the children get used to this before moving to Year 1 and partly to enable us to target groups of children with the teaching they need. Good attendance and punctuality will ensure that your child does not miss out on any of the teaching sessions planned with their needs in mind. It is important to have the children ready to line up at 8.55am so that they feel settled and ready to learn.

We always want to do what is best for your child. Do come and talk to us about any concerns or questions you might have. We do value your input.

Miss A.Crawford – Class teacher.

Miss L.Cox, Mrs K.Peacham and Mrs J.Billington – Teaching assistants.