



## Hatfield Heath Primary School

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Head teacher: J H Clements MA

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Dear Parents,

It was wonderful to meet with you all during the parent consultation meetings before Easter and share your children's successes. Thank you for your continued support.

This term we will be learning about ways we can keep our bodies healthy including food, exercise, water and sleep. 'In the garden' will also be one of our topics this term. We will be learning the names of common plants, flowers and mini-beasts. See if you can name any of the plants or flowers as you walk to school. This will help us to think about ways we can take care of our environment and the positive effect we can have on the world.

The children have been amazing us with their keenness to write independently both indoors and outside. We are encouraging the children to write longer pieces, such as writing their own story. The children are becoming confident with leaving spaces between their words which helps them to read their writing to a friend or an adult. When writing, the children are encouraged to use the sounds including digraphs and trigraphs (such as ck, ee, ear) to support their spelling of unfamiliar words; we often say to the children "sound it out carefully and write the sounds you can hear". The link between reading and writing here is clear: in order to write a word, they must first be able to read it. Therefore, please listen to your child read at home as often as possible; the more fluent they are with reading, the more skills they will have to apply to their writing. 'Regular Reader' certificates are awarded each time a child reads a **minimum of four times** (on different days) during a week. The certificates are presented in front of their classmates, so the children have really enjoyed receiving these. Please continue to write a dated note in your child's home-school diary each time you have heard your child read or when they have practised the words or sounds from their Letters and Sounds cards. When reading at home please finish the book your child has started at school before reading their other book, this will help your child to remember the plot, characters and any recurring unfamiliar words they have met in the book so far.

*Children benefit from reading a book more than once, both to practise the sounding out skills and also to understand and discuss the story. You can also ask your child questions to help them develop their understanding. For example – What do you think will happen next? Who is your favourite character? How does this story make you feel? All of these could then be followed with the question - Why?*

*Please continue to help your children spell the key words from memory at home. These appear on the Letters and Sounds cards and were also handed out during parent consultations.*

Library books - Please ensure these are in school every Thursday when we go to the school library to choose a new book to take home.

The main areas of Maths which we will be focussing on this term are –

- Naming and describing 3D shapes, including cube, cuboid, sphere and cone.
- Continuing our work on addition and subtraction through practical activities, games and challenges. We will be recording our additions and subtractions and introducing answering these questions using a numberline.
- Continuing to count in 2s, 5s and 10s.
- Exploring and naming coins.
- Exploring and using length, capacity and weight of objects.

*You could help your child in this area by exploring the above whilst looking at shapes and money at the shops or on a walk. Counting in 2s, 5s or 10s could be practised on car journeys or when counting out sets of 2ps, 5ps or 10ps.*

### **Warmer weather is coming**

Please ensure your child is dressed appropriately for the weather, particularly on warm days, as we will be using our classroom garden as often as possible. The children must have a sunhat (named please) and sun cream – please note that we are not allowed to help children apply sun cream, so I would advise that you liberally apply a high factor sun cream before school. Please also ensure your child has a bottle of **water** to keep them hydrated throughout the day.

### **Swimming lessons**

Our swimming lessons will start after May half term. I am sure this is something the children will be very excited about. The children will be required to get themselves changed both before and after swimming. This can sometimes be tricky if the children are not used to drying themselves, especially as clothes tend to cling to damp skin. In order to help prepare your child for this, please teach them how to dry and dress themselves after a bath, shower or out of school swimming lesson.

### **Activity afternoon**

We are looking forward to seeing you for our final 'activity afternoon' which will take place on **Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> July, 2.15pm – 3.15pm**. Each child will need to have an adult to work with as you enjoy some activities together. We are hoping for a nice sunny day so we can utilise the garden and field. We kindly ask that younger siblings do not attend if possible.

As you know, we provide a healthy and varied afternoon snack and drink for the children at the cost of a voluntary 15p per day. The cost for this half-term is **£4.20**. It would be appreciated if you could send the money into school as soon as possible, in a named envelope as snacks need to be bought in advance.

If you have any questions about the areas mentioned above or any other aspects of EYFS/Reception, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Claire Atherton