

30 October 2017

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Dear Parents/Carers,

CLASS R INFORMATION LETTER - AUTUMN TERM 2 2017

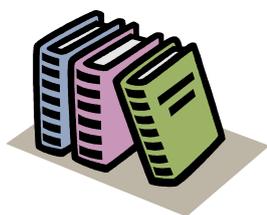
Welcome back after the half term break. I hope you had an enjoyable time and feel refreshed for the busy coming half term!

Our topic focus for this half term is 'Autumn Celebrations'. We will find out about the environmental changes that happen during Autumn and how animals and birds adapt to the changing seasons. We will also be looking at the celebrations of Advent and Christmas. We are planning an Autumn 'Wellie Walk' to the Woods along with a visit to St. Swithun's Church to continue our work on Baptism, which we started learning about last half term. Below is a list of the areas of learning that your child will be exploring. It is by no means extensive, but it should provide you with an insight that will enable to support your child's learning.



Communication, Language and Literacy	Rhythm and rhyme; introducing poetry; recall of story and characters; writing their names; writing simple captions and sentences using their phonics to spell; verbal and pictorial communication of ideas; using descriptive words; alliteration; completing and consolidating 'Phase 2' phonics.
Mathematics	Counting forward and back to 10 and to 20; recognising numbers to 10 then 20 in any order; 1 more and 1 fewer; counting a given number of items; writing numbers from 0 to 10; comparative language - bigger and smaller; exploring length and height; sorting objects according to attributes; 2D and 3D shapes; recognising 1p, 2p, 5p, 10p, 20p, 50p, £1 and £2 coins; estimating.
Understanding The World	Signs of Autumn; animals in Autumn and hibernation; Wellie Walk; comparing photographs of different seasons; various Autumn festivals and celebrations across cultures, including bonfire night; cultural and social differences; Using books and computers to find out information.
Expressive Arts and Design	Painting; printing; using clay; high and low sounds, singing a wide range of songs, moving to music, adding percussion to stories and rhymes; Christmas Nativity.
Physical Development	Fine motor skills including pencil control for formation of letters and numbers; scissor skills; travelling and balancing on different parts of the body with increasing control; body awareness; catching and throwing; taking part in team games.
Personal, Social and Emotional Development	Classroom and school rules - reinforcing, taking care of the immediate environment; talking about new experiences; hygiene (washing hands and blowing noses); dealing with emotions; opportunities for sharing and taking turns; how people celebrate different festivals; SEAL's Unit - Getting on and Falling Out/Say No To Bullying; R.E. - Belonging, Baptism and Christmas.

We will also be starting rehearsals for our Christmas Nativity show - details of performance times and tickets will be released later!



Reading books

Just a reminder, that reading books will be changed twice a week, either on a Monday and Thursday, or Tuesday and Friday. The details of when your child's book will be changed, is printed on the front of their reading diary. Even if it is not your child's day to have their book changed, please send their books and reading diary in. If we have a spare moment (!) we will try to hear them read. We also have adult helpers who come in during the week to hear children read and this is indicated in your child's reading diary with a signature.

The reading diaries are a way of communicating between home and school about your child's reading. Please feel free to write your positive comments about their progress in the diaries. It forms a valuable two way method of communication with school. We will read this **everytime** we change their books. Don't forget that in the front of your child's reading diary

is a piece of paper that shows the support you can give your child when reading, according to the book band colour they are on. May I also remind you that by signing your child's reading diary, you are indicating that your child has read their books. If there is no signature, then the books WILL NOT be changed.

Guided Reading

The children will begin their guided reading again this week. This will incorporate many reading activities linked with Phase 2 phonics and also exploring texts linked with our topic of 'Autumn'. It also provides an opportunity to assess each individual child's reading and monitor their progress. During each guided reading session, the children have the opportunity to read, listen and talk about the text in a small group. It also provides the children with a chance to develop their comprehension skills. An important part of this is encouraging talk about the text so they can articulate their opinions and contribute to discussions, so helping them to develop their speaking and listening skills. It also helps them to develop and apply their phonic knowledge and word reading skills in the context of reading simple sentences. When the children have completed a guided reading session with me and if time permits, I try to write in their reading diary, so you are aware of what we have covered in that session.

Phonics

This week we will complete learning the sounds and tricky words for Phase 2. As you will be aware, these are listed in the back of your child's reading diary. Even when we have completed teaching this phase, it is **really important** you continue to practise these tricky words and sounds with your child at home, as this will complement the revision and consolidation work we do in school for the rest of the term. The more familiar they become with them, the greater their confidence is when using them.

By now, your child should be more aware of how to sound out words in their reading books. Some words will be easier than others. If you find they are sounding out words, even though you know they already know them, encourage them to remember those words, so the recall becomes automatic. This is a natural step in reading. It also helps them to understand that they do not always have to sound a word out in order to be able to read it.



Bonfire Night

Next week sees the arrival of Bonfire Night. As part of our art and craft work, we will be making some model fireworks and rockets. Could you please collect together any kitchen roll tubes, small cereal boxes (variety pack size), yogurt pots, Pringles tubes (no toilet roll tubes though) etc. that we could use to make our fireworks. There is no need to name them - we'll collect them all for everyone to share. Please send to school as soon as possible, but no later than **Monday 6 November 2017**.

Winter Uniform

This half term, your child should be coming to school in their winter uniform. Please make sure that all items of clothing are labelled with your child's name - including coats, gloves, scarves and shoes. At the end of last half term, quite a few items of clothing were lost and their owners could not be located due to names missing on the clothing. Also, it would help tremendously if you could practise 'doing up buttons and zips' with your child. Now they are in winter uniform, getting changed for P.E. can take up a large proportion of the lesson if they have not mastered this (as does getting ready for playtimes). We will always assist, but if they are able to do this independently, it can really help.

Homework

Homework will begin again this week. Each day, the children are expected to read their reading books and revise their sounds and tricky words. They will also get their usual extra activity sent out on a Friday. This is to be completed and returned by the following Friday. The homework is designed to complement and reinforce the work done at school. It is always marked when returned and placed in the children's workbooks.

Water Bottles

Please continue to send your child to school with a full water bottle each morning. They have access to this during the day whenever they feel they are thirsty and we always fill it up if requested. The school policy is that the bottles are filled with water and not juice (fresh or diluted).



R.E. - Belonging and Baptism

As part of our work on belonging and baptism, I would like to talk to the children about how they have changed from being a baby and also about Baptism. If you have any photographs that you are happy to send into school of your child when they were toddlers, or any Baptism objects (Baptism cards, certificate, candle, gown etc.) that would be great! I'll send a separate letter out letting you know when I would need them for. I understand how precious these are, and we would take great care of them and return them to you as soon as we had finished looking at them.

P.E.

This half term, the children will be having P.E. on Thursday and Friday. This will be a mixture of large apparatus work as well as multi-skill type activities.

Wow Moments

Please don't forget to keep sending in the 'Wow Moment' slips showing the things your child achieves at home. It's always great to share these with the rest of the class and also provides your child with the opportunity to develop their speaking skills in class. If you run out - just ask for some more!

Parents, Pupil and Teacher Meetings

Last half term, you should have received confirmation of your appointment time for your meeting with me. If you are unsure of your time, please let me know and I will send you a reminder.

Thumbs Up Award

Each class in the school has their own whole class reward system. Ours is called the 'Thumbs Up Award'! Each time the children as a whole do something deserving of a reward (for example good tidying up or super behaviour), they will collect a thumbs up token. When they collect 100, the whole class decide what treat they would like. It might be a trip to the park or a piece of cake. The children are very near their goal and I will let you know what their treat is and when they will have it.

Online Learning Support

At school, each class has a Virtual Learning Environment, or VLE. This is an online 'Classroom' where the children can access activities and weblinks to support their learning at school. You should find your child's login details in the front of their reading diary. If you have not already done so, please log in and explore the resources.

The children will also be given access to the 'Mathletics' website where they can practise their Maths skills. I will let you know when this becomes available and what your child's individual logon will be.

End of Term Expectations

Each term, we have targets that we want each child achieve. This enables them to make progress towards attaining the Early Learning Goals at the end of reception. Listed below are the targets we expect all children to be able to do by the end of this term so you are aware of what we are working towards at school. Please use them to support your child's learning at home.

Communication, Language and Literacy

- Write their first name with a capital to start;
- Begin to write tricky and high frequency words from Phase 2 phonics;
- Write simple CVC words using Phase 2 sounds (e.g. pig, get, pin, sat);
- Hold a pencil correctly;
- Recognise and read all the tricky and high frequency words from the Phase 2 list, which will be sent home this week.

Mathematics

- Count from 0 to 10 forwards and backwards confidently;
- Carry on counting from a given number up to 10 (e.g. count from 4 to 10);
- Count reliably a number of objects up to 10;
- Read and recognise numbers from 0 to 10;
- Say 1 more or 1 less than a number up to 10;
- Add two small groups of objects to total up to 10.

Thank you for your continued support of Class R. If you have any problems or worries, please do not hesitate to come and see me.

Yours sincerely,

Mr P Asplin
Class R Teacher