



## Year Reception Newsletter Spring Term 2019



Welcome back! I hope you all had an enjoyable Christmas break and a happy New Year. Here is some information about the Spring Term which I hope you will find useful. We will continue to offer a wide range of play-based learning opportunities in Class F, adding in more focussed teaching sessions geared towards Reception each morning and afternoon. Our topic for this term is: 'Homes and Materials.' We will explore different aspects of the topic each week. During the term we will cover these themes:

### **First half of term**

- My home and village
- The Three Little Pigs
- Building Site
- Wood and Metal
- Chinese New Year
- Moving House

### **Second half of term**

- Animal Homes
- Glass and Plastic
- Homes in other countries
- Unusual Homes
- Spring
- Easter

### **Phonics:**

As I mentioned last term, we are continuing to follow the Letters and Sounds Teaching Programme. The children have finished Phase 2 and now know all of the sounds of the letters in the alphabet. We are still learning to name the letters as well as saying the sound they make. Singing the alphabet song helps with this, so if you have a few spare minutes to practice naming the letters of the alphabet with your child/ren that would be great. The children have now moved onto Phase 3 where they have already begun to learn some of the 18 digraphs or trigraphs (two or three letters which make one sound such as 'sh' 'th' or 'igh'). This term we will continue to learn the rest of the Phase 3 graphemes as well as learning to recognise them when reading words. We will also build on our tricky words continuing to learn more.

### **Phase 3 sounds:**

<b>Grapheme</b>	<b>Sample word</b>	<b>Grapheme</b>	<b>Sample word</b>
<b>ch</b>	chip	<b>ar</b>	farm
<b>sh</b>	shop	<b>or</b>	for
<b>th</b>	thin/then	<b>ur</b>	hurt
<b>ng</b>	ring	<b>ow</b>	cow
<b>ai</b>	rain	<b>oi</b>	coin
<b>ee</b>	feet	<b>ear</b>	dear
<b>igh</b>	night	<b>air</b>	fair
<b>oa</b>	boat	<b>ure</b>	sure
<b>oo</b>	boot/look	<b>er</b>	corner

This phase allows the children to practise reading and writing sentences and we are focusing on using a capital letter and a full stop, which means that we will be practising writing capital letters. If you wish to practise writing these at home, that would be very helpful. The children will also be learning to leave gaps (finger spaces) between words in a sentence so that their writing can easily be read back by themselves or others.

We have a Letters and Sounds session every day, just before lunch. If you have any questions at all about what we have covered in Letters and Sounds, please ask.

### **Other Literacy:**

As I said last term, we will continue to make sure that all our work has a strong focus on speaking, listening and developing vocabulary. Also, as before we will be encouraging reading with fluency and understanding, so when reading with your child, you might like to ask how someone might say a particular line in real life or get them to re-read a line more fluently once they have worked out what it says. As part of our topic on 'Homes and Materials' we will give more opportunities to write for a purpose e.g. writing descriptions of the village, Langtree or taking messages in our role play area, making labels for models of houses etc.

### **Maths:**

Maths in the EYFS is very much concerned with laying the foundations for later Maths learning so we will be developing a thorough understanding of the numbers 0 – 20 by:

- comparing and matching groups of objects,
- doing simple addition and subtraction to solve practical problems,

- using the - + = signs to record addition and subtraction number sentences,
- counting forwards and backwards to find answers to real life questions,
- finding one more and one less, spotting what number is missing, and
- ensuring that numbers are written correctly.

We will also look at higher numbers using a 100 square and begin to count forwards and backwards in 1s, 2s and 10s. Again, any counting or number writing practice you wish to do at home will be very much appreciated.

The children will also be developing their use of everyday language to describe and compare size, weight, capacity, time, position and distance. They will continue to work on their 2D and 3D shape knowledge to name and describe a range of shapes as well as using them to build models and create patterns.

#### **PE:**

In addition to their PE sessions with Class F on Monday and Friday mornings, Reception children have an additional session with Mrs Heard on Wednesday afternoons. Please could the reception children have their PE kit in school for Wednesday's lesson – shorts/jogging bottoms, royal blue t-shirt and trainers or plimsolls. All jewellery including earrings must be removed for these lessons.

#### **Understanding the World/ Expressive Arts and Design**

As I mentioned above, our topic for this term is 'Homes and Materials'. We will cover this broadly in the morning sessions in Class F, and then develop some themes more deeply during the afternoons. This will allow the Reception children to extend the topic through activities in Science, Art, Design Technology, History and Geography.

Nearer to Easter we will look at the Easter story and why Christians celebrate Easter as part of our RE work.

#### **Music**

As well as regular adult-led sessions, music is often part of our continuous provision. It tends to be a very sociable activity which allows children to play and/or sing in a group or on their own in front of peers, take turns and follow instructions. Children engage in active learning by playing song games and instruments, exploring sounds and learning sound association. They also have opportunities to experiment and dance with ribbons, instruments and scarves both inside and out of the classroom.

#### **Computing**

In Class F we want to give the children regular opportunities to develop their computing skills in meaningful ways, through easy access to the computers, Beebots, Easy Ears, Sound Pegs, CD players and cameras, as well as thorough the use of telephones, mobiles, video cameras etc in their role play.

#### **Homework:**

The main homework in Class F will continue to be reading and learning to read and spell our tricky words, along with any help you are able to give with handwriting, numeral writing and counting skills. We aim to change the children's books once a week and are always interested to hear how they get on with you at home, so please let us know through the Home-School Diaries in the book bags. These can also be used to pass on any questions that you may have, if you think that you might not have chance to speak to us in the morning

Please do look on Class Dojo to see photos of what the children have been doing in class each week.

Towards half term, we will be offering you a formal Parent-Teacher meeting, but if you would prefer a more informal chat, we are always happy to speak with you at the beginning or end of the day – please come and talk to us if you have any questions at all. If it is not just a convenient moment, we are always able to make an appointment to meet later.

Finally at the end of term we will also be inviting you all to come and watch our Spring Show. This is going to be on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April in the Parish Hall.

Many thanks for your continued support.

Miss Bellew