

Early Years Topic Letter

Summer 1



Hooray the weather has finally begun to improve and I can't wait to get out in the sunshine with our little ones. Perhaps a little optimistic but please remember sun cream and sun hats as we move towards the hotter weather (fingers crossed!)

This a very busy and exciting term as we approach the end of Early Years for our Reception children and prepare them for the transition to Year1. Please help support us to support your child in their next steps through our school. We also welcome some new starters to Nursery this term and we are really excited to have them join our class!

A few reminders:

- Please don't forget to regularly check Tapestry, I share reminders and messages on here as well as your child's learning and the next steps you can support them with. It would be lovely if you shared things they have done at home! If you are having trouble logging on, get in touch and I will be happy to help!
- Our next Stay and Play will be Wednesday 9th May 9am - 10am please spread the word!
- I will be holding a Nursery Read Write Inc parent workshop this half term. Please look out for the date once this is confirmed.
- This half term Forest school will be on a Wednesday and PE will be on a Friday.

Our new friends from Wingrove in Newcastle we can't wait to visit them!



What is at the bottom of the garden?



As the children enjoyed our last topic so much our Julia Donaldson topic became solely based on the Gruffalo! As we follow the children's interests we will continue the Julia Donaldson theme for a little longer and incorporate this into our minibeast topic by sharing stories like 'Superworm' and 'What the ladybird heard'.

Reception Literacy

This half term in Reception we will be trying really hard to write independently for a purpose. We will write our own fact file on minibeasts and will look at different types of texts. We will emphasise the importance and interest of non fiction books as we look at and learn about different minibeasts and things that you might find in the garden. The children will keep a diary record of our Caterpillars as they turn into Butterflies. We will also be working on writing our own stories and applying features of a narrative to our writing.

We will share stories and focus on; 'Superworm', 'What the ladybird heard', 'The Hungry Caterpillar' and 'Mad about minibeasts'.



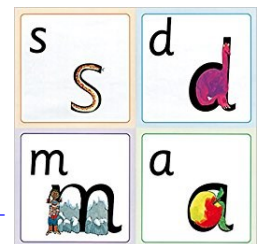
We will listen to and learn some poems off by heart and talk about the rhyming words in them.

We will continue to progress through our RWInc phonics sessions, learning new sounds and focusing on applying the sounds we already know in our independent writing. We will place emphasis on learning and using the high frequency words (list bookmarks sent home). Please learn these with your child, this will help them to progress in their reading and writing. Please continue to read regularly and record this in their reading record, this does not always have to be their reading books!

Nursery Literacy

This half term in Nursery we will continue to focus on Julia Donaldson texts that link to our new minibeast topic. These will include 'Superworm' and 'What the ladybird heard'. We will also focus on 'The Hungry caterpillar'. We will continue to talk lots about characters, feelings and settings. Most importantly, we want to develop a love for reading and ignite the children's imagination. You can continue to help your child at home by sharing a variety of books and stories and by making up stories with your child.

We will continue to focus on reading our name and recognising signs and familiar logo's around our school. This half term the children who will start Reception in September will begin to learn the Set1 RWInc sounds. This will be carried out as a short 15minute daily session in which the children will learn to recognise and if ready, form the individual letters.



We will continue to develop our listening and sound discrimination skills through daily phase 1 phonics games during snack time.

We will continue to develop independent emergent writing and mark making this half term, using correct colours when drawing pictures and giving meaning to what they produce.

Personal, Social, Emotional Development

PSED is constantly promoted all day every day in Early Years for example, sharing, taking turns, understanding their own emotions, listening to their friends and following classroom rules are reinforced on an hourly basis in Early Years. This half term we will place particular emphasis on:

Taking account of our own feelings and understanding others feelings and emotions. We hope that our new 'Inside Out' feelings wall will help the children to talk openly about how they feel and notice when they feel differently.

Organising our own activities and games, making up and sticking to our own group rules.



Talking about what we do and don't like doing, and talking about what we are good at and what we need help with.

Working together and taking turns/sharing roles during their own activities and games.

Communication and Language

This half term we will continue to focus on:

Promoting good listening skills and playing listening games that will help us with early phonics by distinguishing between different sounds.

Using talk to pretend objects are things.

Using past, present and future forms correctly when talking.

Understanding how and why questions, answer them in response to stories or events and begin to ask their own questions of each other.

Giving our attention to what others say and responding appropriately, while engaged in another activity.

Reception will continue to listen attentively with sustained concentration to follow a story without pictures or props.



Understanding the World

This term we will be:



Continuing to make friends with and write letters to the children in New-castle and learn about how their lives are different and similar to ours. We will organise a visit to their school and consider how other children don't always enjoy the same things as us and be sensitive to this.

Using technology to research minibeasts and independently selecting the technology we need to record and take photos of minibeasts.

Making observations of animals/plants and understand why things happen.



Learn about minibeasts and their life cycles/habitats at forest school. We will have our own caterpillars in school and watch them become butterflies, releasing them at forest school! We will think about how we can support them and protect the environment!

RE This half term Reception will take part in RE sessions to understand Judaism and this lifestyle.

Nursery will talk about special times, take part in special worships and learn about special festivals and celebration such as Easter, Ramadan, Christian Aid Week and St George's Day.



Reception Maths

We will continue to develop our Maths skills in every-thing that we do. This term in Maths the children will also:

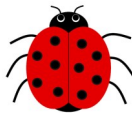
Encounter lots of 'messy maths' experiences at Forest school which will allow them to apply the concepts we learn during our Maths sessions and also allow them to problem solve and experiment.

Using the language of time and measuring small amounts of time when learning about life cycles.

Solving problems involving combining and counting in 2s, 5s and 10s and sharing into equal groups.

In our daily Maths sessions we will be focusing on:

Doubling, halving, Subtracting, Counting back, Counting to 100, recapping teen numbers, recap 3D shapes and days of the week and months of the year.



Physical Development

In PE this half term Reception will take part in weekly Gymnastic sessions.

Nursery will be concentrating on developing basic skills like balance and coordination, catching, throwing and finding space along with Yoga.

We will continue with dough disco to improve our fine motor skills and support our pencil control.

We will continue to promote gross motor activities outdoors and at forest school. We will support the children to build their own obstacle courses in our outdoor area and to think about and manage risks themselves.

In Nursery we will be focusing on forming the letters in our name and the new letters we learn in RWInc sessions accurately (starting in the correct place). We will be constantly reminded to use our 'pinchy parrot' fingers! In Reception we will be working on writing on a line and controlling the size of our letters.

We will continue to think about healthy eating and the need for exercise and good hygiene. We will try really hard to get dressed independently and do our own buttons and laces in Reception.

Expressive, Art and Design

This term we will be:

Learning about and describing different textures.

Taking part in Charanga music sessions and learning about pitch and volume.

Promoting independent junk modelling.

Promoting individual expression and sharing their own feelings and ideas through drama, dance, music, art and junk modelling.

Singing songs, dancing and making music and experimenting with ways of changing them.



Nursery Maths

In Maths this half term we will be focusing on:

Recognising numbers to 10. For those children who recognise numbers to 10, we will be recognising numbers beyond 10 and beginning to add two groups of objects together and find the total.

Splitting a number of objects but understanding there is the same amount.

Using the language of more and fewer. Those who can do this will be learning to identify 1 more and 1 less than a number.

Introducing the concept and language of time when learning about life cycles of minibeasts.

Please support your child in their Maths journey by counting and recognising numbers and shapes in the environment. This will really help prepare them for Reception.

SRE As part of our statutory SRE curriculum this half term we will be recapping the areas covered this year including family networks, hygiene, body awareness and learning about myself and others.