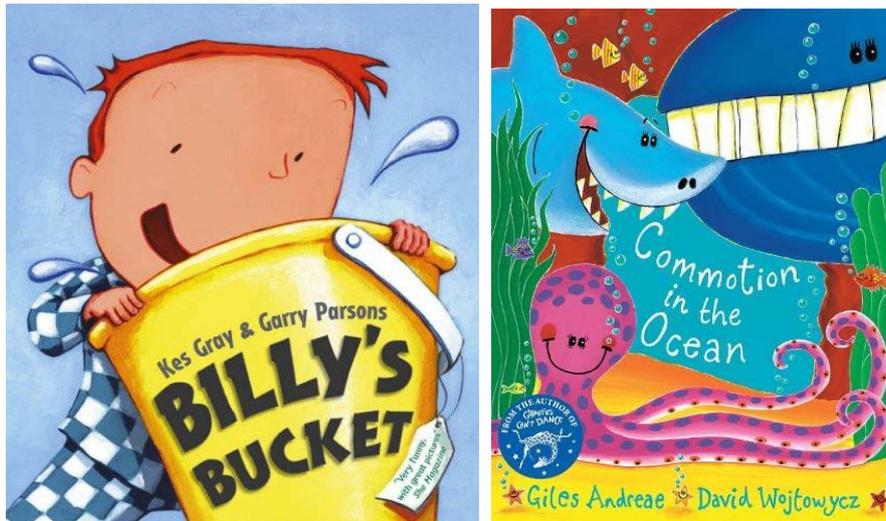


## [Early Years Topic Letter – Summer 2 2024 - Fun at the seaside!](#)



Welcome back, we hope you have had a super half term holiday together with your families!

This half term the topic is 'Fun at the seaside', so some of the stories and texts we will be focusing our learning around are – Billy's Bucket and commotion in the ocean.

### **Gentle reminders:**

Please continue to support us for a smooth start to the day, drop off for all children is 8.45am (prompt please as this allows our day to run smoothly, so we can settle children into their new routines.) Pick up is 3.15pm or 11.45am if your child goes home after lunch.

Please remember a waterproof coat, we go out in all weathers! Water bottles and spare clothes in your child's bag are also essential please. As the weather warms up sun cream may also be required alongside a sun hat. Please can you ensure that sun cream is applied on a morning before school and is clearly named in your child's bag. We are not able to apply suncream to the children, so they need to be able to apply it themselves if it needs topping up. Please make sure every item of clothing and water bottle is clearly marked with your child's name. This makes it easier for us to make sure items are not lost and are reunited with their owner quickly.

Please remember to log onto your child's tapestry account regularly, this will help you to see what your child's next steps are and will help you to support your child's learning. Further to this, it is a lovely way to see what we have been up to and talk about school with your children. Don't forget to upload achievements and experiences at home. For reception children reading at home and practising our RWI sounds remains the focus. Reading at home really does make a BIG difference, please try and read with your child daily. We hope you have enjoyed your new 'reading for pleasure' books which have been coming home alongside your child's reading books, don't forget these are for you to read to your child. Please do write in your child's reading record when you practise these things at home and make any notes, this is useful for us to see how you are getting on at home.

PE continues to be on a Tuesday and Forest School on a Thursday, so please continue to send your child to school in their PE kit on these days. Thank you.

### **Important dates -**

- **Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> June** – afternoon trip to the United Reforms Church (Reception children only) with Mrs Athey and Mrs Lewis.
- **Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> June** – whole day trip to Alnwick Library and Aln Valley Railway.
- **Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> June** – Sports day – our session is 9.30-11.30 - if your child does not normally come to school on a Thursday morning and you would like them to join, that is fine, all we ask is that they come with you at the start and go home at the end.
- **Monday 15<sup>th</sup> July** – Summer term awards ceremony 2-3pm – you will be notified and invited via tapestry by Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> June if your child has won an award.

<p><b><u>Personal, Social and Emotional Development</u></b></p> <p>We will reinforce positive behaviour at all times in EYFS. Supporting the children to develop their personal, social and emotional development is at the core of what we do in every way and is a part of every aspect of our learning environment.</p> <p>This half term we will also place particular emphasis on:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Winning and losing</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Changing me</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Look how far we have come!</p> <p>Modelling positive behaviour and highlight exemplary behaviour of children in class, narrating what was kind and considerate about the behaviour.</p>	<p><b><u>Physical Development</u></b></p> <p>This half term we will continue to work hard to develop our fine motor and gross motor skills. We will be doing this through our dough disco and 'squiggle while you wiggle' sessions as well as daily name writing for nursery and writing challenges in reception. In our phonics sessions, we focus closely on the correct formation of our letters. We will also develop our fine motor skills through things like pinching, threading, using pegs, twisting, brushing, stacking and using tweezers. The children will also continue to use tools such as hammers at forest school which helps develop the strength in their fingers and wrists.</p> <p>We will promote gross motor activities like climbing, jumping, running, throwing and catching through physical activities and when using our climbing frame, cars and bikes and at Forest School.</p> <p>This half term, our Tuesday PE session will be preparing for sports day and athletics.</p> <p>Regular Forest School sessions will provide extensive opportunities for the children to develop their gross motor skills and their independence.</p>
<p><b><u>RE</u></b></p> <p>This half term Reception will take part in RE sessions and our focus this term is Multi faith comparative units -</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">What times/stories are special and why?</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">What places are special and why?</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Festivals and celebrations.</p>	<p><b><u>Communication and Language</u></b></p> <p>We develop the children's listening and attention, understanding and speaking skills all the time and often based on your child's personal next steps.</p> <p>In addition, this half term we hope to focus on -</p> <p>Sharing our focus texts – Billy's Bucket and Commotion in the ocean.</p> <p>Continuing to learn new songs and rhythms in our music lessons. Having two channelled attention, being able to listen and 'do' at the same time.</p> <p>Sharing lots more poems.</p> <p>Learning new vocabulary and using this to talk about what we have learnt and how things work in relation to our topic.</p> <p>We will also continue with lots of phase one phonics games and listening and attention activities.</p>

<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Reception Literacy</u></b></p> <p>This half term in phonics, Reception will continue to consolidate all the sounds they have learned (set 1 and set 2) in snappy 'speed sounds' sessions each morning. The children will become more secure at using these in their writing, as they are already great at recognising them! Lots of the children will also now take part in 'Get Writing' sessions, this is an additional aspect of Read, Write, Inc which supports the children to read, comprehend and write about a story we cover across the week. This is one of the books your child will bring home towards the end of the week. This helps your child to apply the phonics sounds they have learnt into their reading and writing. If your child is not quite ready for 'Get Writing' they will continue to work on blending, segmenting and red Read Write Inc books, with a focus on holding a sentence in their heads and being able to write it themselves.</p>
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We will continue to recap the red words we have learnt to date and introduce new ones. These words are words that cannot be sounded out and they just need to be learnt by sight.

This half term, we intend to place a huge emphasis on supporting and inspiring the children to write independently. We hope that now the children are becoming more secure in their phonics skills, they will begin to write for real purpose within our provision. We hope the children will begin to label models, make posters, signs, score boards or messages to their friends. You can really help with this at home by modelling writing for various purposes. Talk to your child about how you need to write a shopping list, a diary or a list of jobs to do. Perhaps you could let your child help you? Could you write a list of ingredients you need and go to the shop together to buy them?

We will be looking at two key stories, these stories link to our topic, and we hope to have lots of exciting opportunities to explore them practically and in real life. The first story will be 'Billy's Bucket' and the other will be 'Commotion in the ocean'.

#### **Nursery Literacy**

This half term in Nursery we will focus on learning and retelling familiar and new Nursery rhymes. We will be sharing our focus texts of 'Billy's Bucket' and 'Commotion in the ocean' as we take part in many activities linked to the stories and learn to retell them.

We will work on having a go at writing our names and developing our mark making skills.

This half term we will be placing our emphasis on creating confident mark maker's, allowing the children to explore the different marks they make using a variety of tools including chalk, pens, pencils, crayons, water and in sensory trays. We will take part in 'Squiggle While you Wiggle' sessions to help us to develop our early writing skills in an energetic and fun way.

We will also be promoting drawing and supporting the children to talk about what they have drawn and the marks they have made.

We will take part in short daily phase one phonics sessions which will help us to develop our sound discrimination and listening skills. This half term we will be focussing on oral blending and segmenting with those children who are ready. We will also continue with Aspect 6 – voice sounds.

#### **Nursery Maths**

Maths happens all day in Early Years, during the register, at snack time and while the children play. Before the day has even started we have counted and added up how many children we have at school and recorded this using Numicon and on tens frames.

This half term we will focus on:

- Developing 1 to 1 counting strategies, counting objects in irregular arrangements, use the language of more and fewer to compare groups, continue to compare and order numbers to 5 and beyond.
- Begin to deepen understanding of uses of number.

**Key vocabulary:** same, different, more, fewer, less, bigger, greater.

#### **Reception Maths**

Maths happens all day in Early Years. Each morning at register time, we will count how many children we have, add them up and record this using numicon and number sentences before our day has even started! Maths is covered in all areas of the provision but we also take part in short directed Maths activity each day. The children can then apply the skills they have learnt in the provision.

This half term we will pay particular attention to –

- Position and positional language
- Sharing into equal groups
- Recognising odd and even
- Patterns

**Key vocabulary:** next to, behind, on top, beside, in front, underneath, equal, fair, share, same, different, more, less, odd, even, pattern, repeating pattern.

### Expressive, Art and Design

This term the children will have the opportunity to develop our expressive skills through various tools and materials provided outside, at forest school and in our craft and small world areas. This is often very child led and depends on where our interests take us but some ideas, we may cover this half term include –

Paper plate jellyfish

Puppet shows: Provide a wide range of props for play which encourage imagination.

Water pictures, collage, shading by adding black or white, colour mixing for beach huts, making passports.

Colour mixing – underwater pictures.

Father's Day Crafts.

**Key vocabulary:** draw, paint, sketch, mix, stick, cut, colour, shade.

### Understanding the World

This term we will be focussing on -

Materials: Floating / Sinking – boat building.

Seasides long ago compared to now.

Share non-fiction texts that offer an insight into contrasting environments.

Listen to how children communicate their understanding of their own environment and contrasting environments through conversation and in play.

**Key vocabulary:** environment, change, same, different, season, Autumn, Winter, Spring, Summer, properties, float, sink, old, new.

### Forest School

This half term we will be developing skills in –



Exploring and using the area and resources independently, following our own interests.

Developing our play within the mud kitchen and pulley area by taking turns and making up our own imaginative play.

Continuing to develop our use of tools by using hammers and whittling with peelers.

Continuing to look closely at changes in the environment due to weather and seasons.

### RSE

We will continue to cover all aspects of our PSHE/RSE curriculum in Early Years, continuously reinforcing key learning points.

This half term we will talk about safety at the seaside and the importance of picking litter up and taking it home.